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STATE CONG. CHIEF ON POLLS

'Up to 30% of Rajasthan MLAs won't get ticket'

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ISRAEL-HAMAS DIVIDE

The conflict and Nusseibeh's analysis

Both sides are behaving unethically, endangering ordinary citizens

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

BIG UPSET

Afghanistan registers a stunning win over England

SPORT » PAGE 15

Israel readies for attack as a million people evacuate

As the huge population leaves north Gaza, Israel says it restored water supply on U.S. intervention and will push civilians to the southern strip

Reuters
GAZA/JERUSALEM

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed on Sunday to "demolish Hamas" as his military prepared to move into the Gaza Strip in retaliation for unprecedented attacks by Hamas militants eight days ago, which left 1,300 people dead.

Israel said it had resumed water supply to southern Gaza on Sunday, as one million people evacuated the northern part of the besieged territory to escape the looming ground offensive and retaliatory air strikes. "This will push the civilian population to the southern (part of the) Strip," Israeli Energy Minister Israel Katz said in a statement, a week after Israel had stopped supplying water to the entire territory as part of a "complete siege" on the Palestinian enclave. He said the decision to resume the supply was taken after talks between Mr. Netanyahu and U.S. President Joe Biden.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Preparing the ground: Israeli soldiers gather in a staging area near the border with Gaza Strip on Sunday. AP

New investments slowed again in Q2 of 2023-24: survey

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Fresh investment announcements in the July-to-September quarter, the second quarter of 2023-24, have dropped to ₹6.9 lakh crore, 13% lower than in the first quarter, and 21.5% down from a year ago, driven by a sharp dip in proposed outlays by the Union government and foreign investors, and a broad-based contraction across the manufacturing, mining, infrastructure, and electricity sectors. The decline in investment commitments during Q2 comes on the back of a 45.8% sequential decline recorded in the first quarter, as per Projects Today's latest investment survey. A total of 2,238 new projects with an aggregate investment intention of ₹6.88 lakh crore were announced in Q2, as against 2,745 new projects worth ₹7.91 lakh crore in Q1, with the projects' tally contracting 18.5%.

Private investment plans shrank for the second quarter in a row, albeit at a slower pace of 0.24% compared to the 62.5% contraction in Q1.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Investment slump

Fresh investments in Q2 were 13% lower than in Q1 with the highest dip in foreign and Union government projects

Ownership	Q-o-Q (%)
Government	-25.6
Union govt.	-47.4
State govt.	-4.7
Private	-0.2
Private (Indian)	17.8
Foreign	-66.5
TOTAL	-13.0

Source: Projects Today

NEARBY

Mysuru Dasara festivities begin

MYSURU
The 10-day-long Mysuru Dasara festivities got off to a traditional start atop the Chamundi Hills with special prayers offered to goddess Chamundeshwari. » Page 4

Maharashtra's plans opposed

BELAGAVI
Kannada organisations in Belagavi have opposed Maharashtra government's plans to provide health insurance to Marathi speakers in Belagavi and other border districts. They have urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to ask Maharashtra to stop it.

» Page 4

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 18

Bowling sensation Sabeena Athica's fascinating journey

The 55-year-old shares how she used to compete with men in amateur events and how her daughter inspired her to start bowling at the age of 30; 13-time National women's tenpin bowling champion says her husband played a huge role in her career

S. Prasanna Venkatesan

Bowling is synonymous with recreation. Even the 13-time National women's tenpin bowling champion Sabeena Athica's initial visits to Chennai's first-ever bowling alley (Snow Bowling) were for some quality family time and entertainment.

"It was in 1999, 1998 maybe. That's when I started bowling."

Sabeena was 30 and a mother of two children then. Her daughter has encouraged her to overcome her inhibition and pick up the ball.

"There, only men used to play. Yet, my daughter was playing. We were just sitting and watching. Then, my daughter told me, 'Mumma why don't you also play?' I said, 'Only men are playing, it'll be so odd if I play.' She said, 'So what?! You can play!' So, that is how I started!" says the 55-year-old over phone.

According to her, two more centres have opened up since then – Bowling Point and DU (Down Under) Bowl.

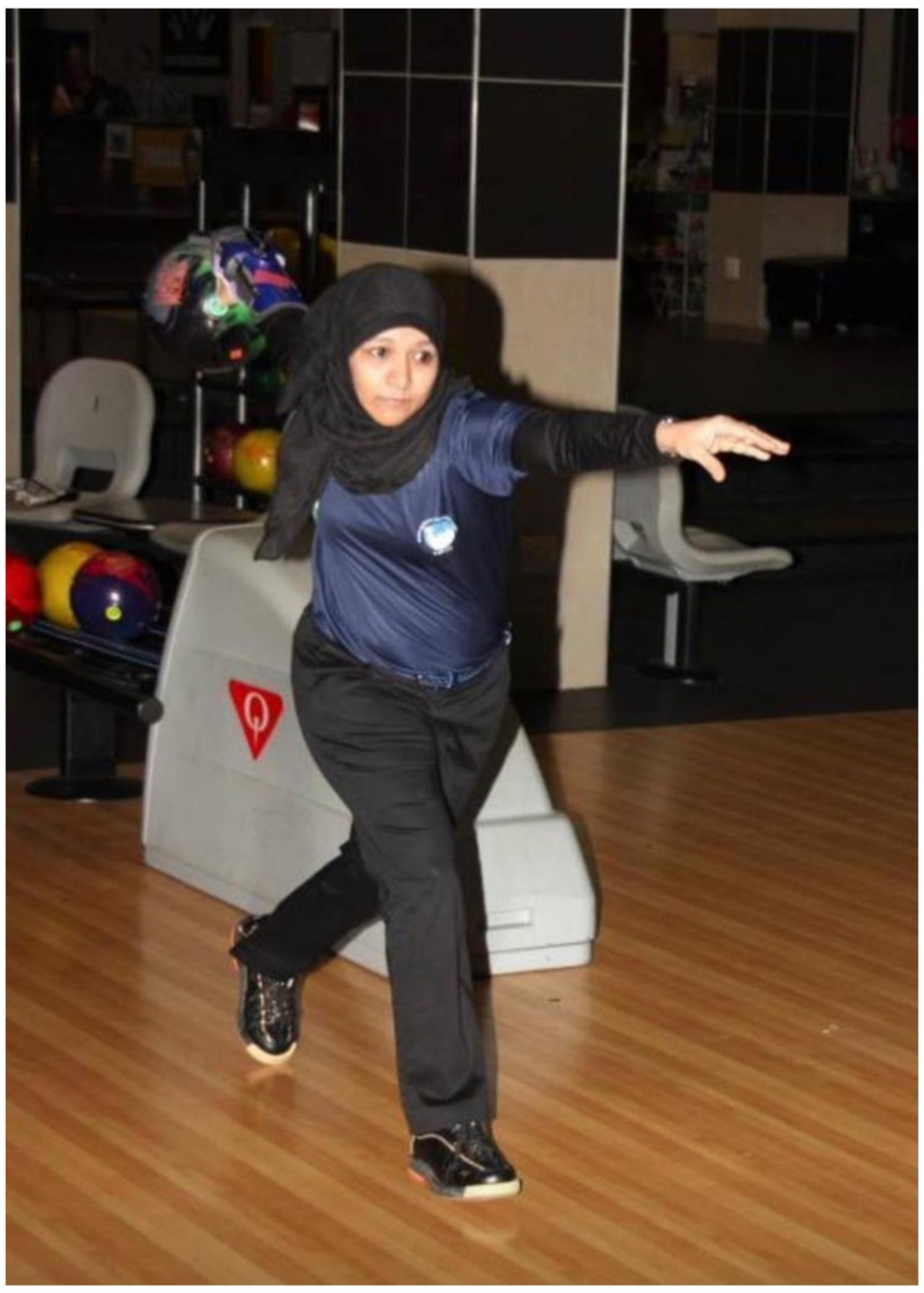
"All three places would have local tournaments every two months."

She made winning a habit, which emboldened her to get into the National tenpin bowling championships in Mumbai in 2000 when she became aware of the annual event.

She went to the tournament with an assembled kit – items borrowed from different bowling centres in Chennai – and finished ninth, but got to interact with senior players from Delhi.' "They were the best actually at that time. I think Delhi was the first city in India which got a bowling centre."

After returning, she got herself a kit from Malaysia where she has since been often visiting for training.

Back in Chennai, she tend to her children and home, and would go for training sessions in the night. "I really started working hard. Literally, five days a week. After putting my kids to sleep, my husband – who would've come from work – and I would leave at 9 or 9.30 in the night."



THE GIST

- Apart from winning 13 titles, Sabeena is also a four-time runner-up in the 22 Nationals she's played in
- Sabeena says her goal is to score a perfect game (300 points)
- She first got into the National tenpin bowling championships in Mumbai in 2000

Reaping the rewards

The result, she won her first National title in 2001 in Mumbai. Consequently, she got to travel to Pattaya in Thailand to her first bowling World Cup where she competed with "class bowlers", who were a level above her.

That made her switch from training with the 11-pound ball that's used for straight bowling (bowling without technique).

Bowling with technique is of two kinds – hook bowling and spin bowling.

"I switched to the 13-pound ball, that too with the technique where we hook the ball. I bought everything, but I just didn't know how to use it, because there was nobody who could train us!"

With external inputs, she's been self-taught all along!

Technicalities

There are different oil patterns (categories) in bowling.

"For each pattern, we need different balls. Different in terms of the weight and the coverstock of the ball.

"Now, supposing it (oil pattern) is 34 feet, the oil will be only till 34 ft, and the lane is 60 ft long. So, the rest of the lane will be dry, and we need a shiny ball to travel on the dry surface.

"If it is 44 ft, we need a ball which is sanded, so that it will grip on the lane."

There will be two patterns in the Nationals and the participants have to compete in both the patterns. "One will be long oil, and one will be short or medium oil. They will announce it one month before, so we can get the kit ready for it."

> It's becoming better... Many girls are participating in amateur bowling tournaments. I think in the future there will be more girls coming to the fore
>
> SABEENA ATHICA

Sabeena is also a four-time runner-up in the 22 Nationals she's played!

Her husband Anwar Saleem (60) has been her support system. He convinced her family to let her pursue bowling professionally. "Being a muslim, and coming from an orthodox background, it was something strange for my family. So, they kept telling me, 'no, don't.'

"But I had my husband's support. He convinced them. They kept resisting, but after a point they gave up. And now they are proud of me," she added.

She said there's only one other woman bowler from Tamil Nadu now. "The other girl, Sowjanya, came only this year. I don't know when we last had a few woman bowlers. It's been only me representing Tamil Nadu in the Nationals!

"It's becoming better. Now, they have so many amateur tournaments and all. So, many girls are participating. I think in the future there will be more girls coming to the fore. So, what happens is I play with the men. Usually, when a lady plays with men, she gets hadicap.

"Handicap in the sense, some ten pins extra they will give us for each game. That's the rule worldwide. But in my State, they will say, 'Giving Sabeena handicap, we might as well give her the cup!' They don't give me handicap, and I don't even expect a handicap. I compete equally with them!"

At 55, she's been suffering from knee problems for the past ten years now. "All bowlers get knee problems," she said.

Is there any major goal or milestone that keeps her going? "The perfect game (300 points), I want to achieve that!"

Champs: Sabeena and Hameed, winners of the Ameoba National tenpin bowling championships in Bangalore, circa 2003. FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

GAME TIME

Test yourself on trivia and facts on various sports and games from around the world

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
If it was Googly in 1996 and Stumpy in 2011, what was it in 1999 and 2007?

QUESTION 2
Which legendary pugilist was nicknamed 'The Manassa Mauler'?

QUESTION 3
According to the Badminton World Federation, how many feathers should make up a tournament shuttlecock?

QUESTION 4
Usain Bolt, who won a hat-trick of Olympic gold medals in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay, was stripped of one of the medals. Which one and why?

QUESTION 5
What is the lasting contribution of the famous Indian sports administrator Guru Dutta Sondhi, a founding father of the Asian Games, to the Games' legacy?

QUESTION 6
Which is the only club, other than Real Madrid and Barcelona, never to have played outside the Spanish top division?

QUESTION 7
In which Olympic Games was cricket a medal sport and which country triumphed?

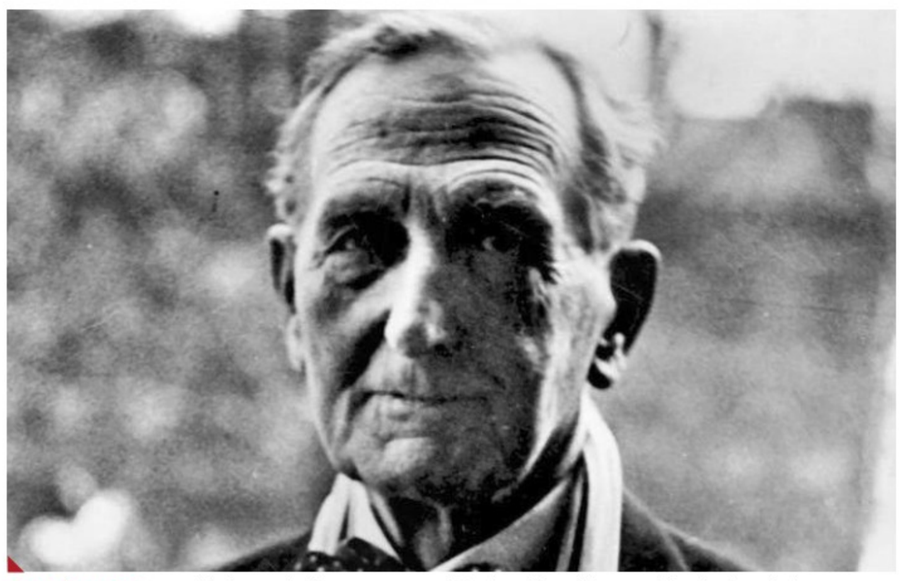
QUESTION 8
Shahid Afridi missed the first two games of the 2007 World Cup because he was banned for four ODIs. What was his offence?

QUESTION 9
What is unique about Jochen Rindt who won the 1970 Formula One World Drivers' Championship?

QUESTION 10
With nine gold medals between them, Aldo and Nedo Nadi hold the record for siblings with most Olympic gold medals in history. In which sport?

ANSWERS

1. Willow and Mello. They are all the official mascots for the ICC men's World Cup; 2. Jack Dempsey; 3.16; 4. The 2008 Beijing Games 4x100m gold because his Jamaican teammate Nesta Carter tested positive; 5. Coined the motto 'Ever Onward'; 6. Athletic Bilbao; 7. 1900 Paris Games where Great Britain took the honours; 8. For reacting to a heckler by prodding him with his bat; 9. Only driver to be posthumously awarded the Drivers' Championship; 10. Fencing; 11. C.B. Fry.



Question 11: Name this legend who represented England in cricket and football and also equalled the then-world record in the long jump. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, OCT. 16	
RISE 06:10	SET 18:00
RISE 07:17	SET 19:07
TUESDAY, OCT. 17	
RISE 06:10	SET 18:00
RISE 08:09	SET 19:51
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 18	
RISE 06:10	SET 17:59
RISE 09:05	SET 20:40

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	32	23
Bengaluru	31	22

Bengaluru Today
31°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Morning will be pleasant. Day will beslight warm.Night also will be pleasant.

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‘Govt. should withdraw proposed plan to form local committees to maintain parks’

Activist Vinay Srinivas says proposal is a wrong move by the government and the keys of the parks will again go into the hands of a few walkers

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

In July 2022, the BBMP issued an order mandating that all parks should be kept open between 5 a.m. and 8 p.m., with a small window for maintenance. FILE PHOTO

It is feared that the State government’s proposal to constitute ward-level local committees to maintain parks, operated by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), would keep the poor away from the city’s open spaces.

About a year ago, although the parks were maintained by the civic body, there were instances of walker groups controlling them by keeping the keys to themselves.

During that time, daily wage labourers, gig workers, and others were barred from entering. The walkers used to close the park at 10 a.m., only to open again at 5 p.m. in time for the evening stroll.

Taking note of this, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, in July 2022, issued an order mandating the Parks Department to keep the gates open between 5 a.m. and 8 p.m.

However, the park would be closed for maintenance between 11 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

The aim of this order was to allow the poor, the daily wage earners, the gig workers etc. to rest or have food.

A few days ago, during the Brand Bengaluru event, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar said, “I am planning to form a non-political committee composed of walkers and local residents to maintain parks in the city. The committee can also collect corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds to carry out development activities.”

Vinay Srinivas, an activist working for the urban poor, said that this was a wrong move by the government and the keys of the parks would again go into the hands of a few walkers.

“Now, many food delivery persons use parks to rest and eat, and the parks also give shade for daily wage labourers. Many see these people are a deterrent to the maintenance of parks. The BBMP should continue the same system that exists now and Mr. Shivakumar should withdraw this plan,” he said.

Mr. Srinivas called it “privatisation of parks” and he said the BBMP can give this to ward committees which is a statutory body instead.

Madhuri, a food delivery partner, said she has been using a park in Jayanagar to rest and eat.

“Not just me, many delivery partners use this space. I am surprised as to why Mr. Shivakumar wants to hand over parks to some local committee. This space is for all the public and not just walkers or small groups of people,” she said.

I-T raids: Crores recovered from city builder

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Income Tax (I-T) officials on Sunday searched an apartment in Kethamaranahalli at Rajajinagar belonging to a city-based builder, and allegedly recovered several crores in cash and incriminating documents from him.

The I-T officials questioned the builder to ascertain the source of the money and the documents pertaining to several immovable properties in and around the city.

He has been issued a notice to appear before them for questioning and the officials are also probing the links of his business partners and their political affiliations.

The action is part of the operation carried out by I-T sleuths against several contractors since Thursday evening.

I-T sleuths raided the properties linked to R. Ambikapathy, the office-bearer of multiple contractors’ associations in Karnataka that had made the “40% commission” allegation against the previous BJP regime. He was also one of the contractors arrested, following a criminal defamation case filed by the former Minister Munirathna over corruption allegations, and later released.

KIA is most punctual airport, finds report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has been ranked as the most punctual airport globally in the last three months.

As per aviation analytics firm Cirium’s on-time performance (OTP) monthly report, KIA topped the charts in the global airport rankings.

In July, KIA’s on-time departure was 87.51%. In August it was 89.66%, and in September it was 88.51%, making it the most punctual airport globally in the last three months.

“Cirium’s airport on-time performance analysis shows 88.51% of Kempegowda International Airport’s flights departed on time in September,” Cirium stated in its September 2023 OTP report on airlines and airports

The other airports ranked among the top five globally in the last three months are the Salt Lake City International Airport, the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad, the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, and the El Dorado International Airport.

In September, KIA also recorded on-time arrival percentage of 79.46, serving 88 routes with 35 airlines.

Each month, Cirium reviews the total number of flights in a given month (approximately 3 million) for every airport globally in an ordered list, then looks at where the percentile demarcations fall.

The aviation analytics firm also lists airports in four different categories: global airport (25-40 million seats), large airport (25-40 million seats), medium airport (15-25 million seats), and small airport (5-15 million seats).

Gold smuggling racket unearthed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), on Saturday, recovered 6 kg of gold in the form of bars and paste worth ₹3 crore, in two separate cases.

According to officials, based on a tip-off, they recovered 3.2 kg of gold bars fixed in the washroom of an Indigo flight from Malaysia.

The bars were supposed to be accessed by a domestic flyer of the gold smuggling ring, but before he could board the flight, the officials had accessed the washroom and recovered the bars worth ₹1.3 crore.

In another incident, the DRI officials caught two passengers who landed from Abu Dhabi. The duo from Tamil Nadu had concealed 2.8 kg of gold paste in their rectums.

The duo worked as carriers for the gold smuggling racket, a senior official from the DRI said.

Kumaraswamy slams plan to set up four SWM parks to dump waste from Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday slammed the State government’s plan to set up four solid waste management parks, including one proposed near Ramanagara, to dump waste from Bengaluru.

He said that if the government does not reconsider its decision, then people would take to the streets in protest.

“Under the name of Brand Bengaluru, waste dumping yards are being set up in all four directions around Bengaluru. If 1,630 tonnes of garbage are dumped at these places every day, then what would be the plight of the people?” he questioned.

> If 1,630 tonnes of garbage are dumped at these places every day, then what would be the plight of the people?
> **H.D. KUMARASWAMY,** Former Chief Minister

The JD(S) leader issued a statement on Sunday after *The Hindu* carried an article, about a search being on for a 100-acre land parcel in Ramanagara district for the waste park, on Saturday.

At the behest of Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who in a meeting last week said that waste processing units and landfills would be shifted out of the city, citing complaints from those living in the vicinity of these yards, the Deputy Commissioners of Ramanagara, Bengaluru Urban, and Bengaluru Rural districts are on the lookout for such land parcels.

The report had stated that Avinash Menon Rajendra, DC, had confirmed that such lands were available in the district, while officials were given directions by Dayananda K.A., Bengaluru Urban DC, and the office of the Bengaluru Rural DC to find land.

Mr. Kumaraswamy called this an attempt to worsen the already polluted environment around the State capital.

“The idea to dump garbage on 100 acres near Ramanagara and Bidadi reveals the hidden motives of the Deputy Chief Minister. The waterbodies of Ramanagara district have already been completely destroyed along with the Vrishabhavathi and the groundwater has also been polluted,” he said.

FIR against BJP activist for spreading fake news about tricolour

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jayanagar police recently registered an FIR against a BJP woman activist from Tumakuru for allegedly spreading fake news on her social media account about the national flag.

Police complaint
Based on a complaint by Mahalakshmamma H.N., sub inspector, Jayanagar police station, Tumakuru Town, the police registered the FIR against Shakuntala Nataraj, charging her under Section 153B (Imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration).

This is the second such case against Shakuntala as the High Grounds police had registered a case against her earlier for her remarks against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his family.

According to the police, the accused had shared a post on her X (formerly Twitter) account that the Pakistani flag was hoisted higher than the Indian flag at the Lulu shopping mall in Bengaluru and also posted a photo.

She also tagged Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar questioning him. She also had a hashtag #Boycott Lulu Mall in Bangalore, according to the police.

However, the Tumakuru police fact-checked the source of the photo and found it to be a fake post.

Inciting hatred
The police said the photo was taken from a different angle to incite hatred among members of the public.

THE HINDU
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Communities use festival as a platform for expression of their creativity

DASARA

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Some of the 1,008 dolls of gods and goddesses displayed at Garuda Mall in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Dolls at Dasara Bombe Mane in Basavanagudi. JAHNAVI T.R.

As deeply rooted in tradition as Dasara is, it also provides an opportunity for creative expression through the art of doll (*bombe*) arrangements.

In Bengaluru, many communities use this as a platform to pass on unique social and cultural messages, especially to the younger generations.

A bunch of city-based social groups, working under the umbrella of #ReclaimConstitution, has organised a month-long Dasara dolls display at Janapada Loka with ‘Sarva Janaangada Shantiya Thota’, (a peaceful garden of people of all faiths) as the central theme.

The display also includes dolls representing various faiths like Buddhism (Buddha), Jainism (Gommateshwara), Islam (the Kaaba), Christianity (Nativity scene), and Hinduism (Temple Gopura).

The organisation has commissioned dolls of 15 female members of the Constituent Assembly of India, along with other statuettes of B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Subash Chandra Bose to celebrate the 75th year of the Constitution, which is coming up in January.

“Dasara used to be a celebration which showcased themes beyond the gods. But of late, it has become very religious. We have chosen this theme this year as it’s the best way to showcase Indian culture and Constitutional values. We wanted to use this as an opportunity to bring people together and show that Dasara is a secular festival,” said Vinay Kumar, founder of Reclaim Constitution. While the team is looking to organise the display at educational institutions and other places, they have also appealed to the public to reach out to them if they wish to host the exhibition in their homes, communities, or schools.

On the other side, at Garuda Mall, a display of 1,008 dolls of various gods and goddesses has been arranged from October 9 to 25. As many as 79 artists worked for six to eight months to produce these handmade dolls, revealed Medhini Uday Garudachar, director, Garuda Mall.

“We arrange this display every year. Before the pandemic, one of our displays had set a Guinness World Record. This year, we have made it to the Asia Book of Records and the Indian Book of Records. With these displays, we want to showcase our culture and we want people to have a look at our dolls and the creativity behind them,” Ms. Garudachar said.

She added that models of the Mysuru Dasara darbar and the Mysuru palace, and the Vijayadashami Dibba at Hampi are also displayed at the mall.

The Ramayana is the central theme of the Dasara celebrations this year at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. The exhibition opened on Sunday.

Aparna Acharya, one of the exhibitors, said that displaying dolls was not about fame or numbers (of dolls) for her family.

“We look at our dolls and think if they can help us continue the storyline in our mind. This year, we have depicted the seven *khandas* (chapters) of *The Ramayana* through dolls. After around two decades of displaying dolls at our home, we have been invited to the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan this time. We want to spread our Puranic information and culture to the visitors,” Ms Acharya said.

She also said that her dolls were sourced from various parts of Tamil Nadu and during her other travels.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division
Tender Notice No. SA-M-04-2023 dated 11.10.2023

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Divisional Office, Salem - 636005 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the under mentioned work as per tender notice given in e-tender portal our **www.ireps.gov.in.** The Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for Mechanical Branch in Salem Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tender will be accepted. **The cost of tender form and EMD need to be done through online payment only. Tenders received without valid EMD shall be rejected. Any other mode of submission of cost of tender form and EMD will not be accepted.** All documents to support fulfillment of technical eligibility criteria and financial eligibility criteria and any other document required to be submitted should be scanned and uploaded along with the tender. It is the responsibility of Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) to obtain Digital Signature Certificates for participating e-tendering.

Name of work: Tender for Provision of Attendant in lieu of Telephone Attendant cum Dak Khalasi/ Bungalow Lascar through Manpower outsourcing agency for a period of 36 months

Sl.No.	DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTION
1	Estimate Value	Rs.97,08,935/
2	Earnest Money	Rs. 1,94,200/-
3	Cost of Tender Form	Rs.5,600/-
4	Tender Closing date and Time	02.11.2023 11:00 Hrs.
5	Web address	http://www.ireps.gov.in

Complete details of the above tender are given on the e-portal **"www.ireps.gov.in".** For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal **"www.ireps.gov.in".** The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.

Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any Corrigendum is issued for any correction; deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at **"http://www.ireps.gov.in".**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, is intending to purchase the schedule mentioned property items from its **owners 1) Smt. MYTHRI. L.** W/o. R. Anand, aged about 38 years, and **2) Smt. GOWRAMMA,** W/o. Late. B.H. Ramachandra Reddy, aged about 63 years, both **1)** and **2)** are r/at. **No.29, 12th Cross, Opp. Hilife Pearl Shell Apartments, Balagere Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk Bangalore-560087.** The owners have represented that the schedule property items are free from all encumbrances. Be it known, that if any person/s having any objections in respect of the schedule property items they shall lodge their claim/objections with documentary proof to the undersigned within **07 (seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the absence of receipt of any legally, valid claim/objections within the aforesaid period, my client will proceed with the purchase of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

1) ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the property **Asset number 07/44/04/03, Property Number 150200101300320190,** measuring East to West: 8.534 meters (28 feet), North to South: 13.716 meters(45 Feet), totally measuring 117.06 square meters(1260 square feet which is converted under ALN-SR-43/1988-89 dated 23:08:1989 by the Tahsildar, Anekal Taluk) along with a house situated at Kaval Hosahalli Village, Byagadadenahalli Grama Panchayath Limits, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore urban district and bonded on:

East by : Property of Krishna Reddy. **West by:** Property of Anjana Reddy **North by:** Property of S. Deekshith. **South by:** Property of Rangappa

2) ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the property **Asset number 05/44/04/01 Property Number 150200101300320188,** measuring East to West:5.7912 meters (19 feet), North to South:13.716 meters(45 Feet), totally measuring 79.432 square meters (855 square feet which is converted under ALN-SR-43/1988-89 dated 23:08:1989 by the Tahsildar, Anekal Taluk) along with house situated at Kaval Hosahalli Village, Byagadadenahalli Grama Panchayath Limits, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore urban district and bonded on:

East by: Property of R.Srinivasa Reddy. **West by:** Anekal-Chandapura Main Road, **North by:** Property of Venkatesh Murthy, **South by:** Property of Rangappa

3) ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the property **Asset number 06/44/04/02, Property Number 150200101300320189,** measuring East to West: 8.534 meters(28 feet), North to South: 13.716 meters(45 Feet), totally measuring 117.06 square meters(1260 square feet which is converted under ALN-SR-43/1988-89 dated 23:08:1989 by the Tahsildar, Anekal Taluk) along with building constructed in the entire property situated at Kaval Hosahalli Village, Byagadadenahalli Grama Panchayath Limits, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore urban district and bonded on:

East by: Property of Prakash Reddy. **West by:** Property of R.Srinivasa Reddy **North by** : Property of Mithin Kumar. **South by:** Property of Rangappa.

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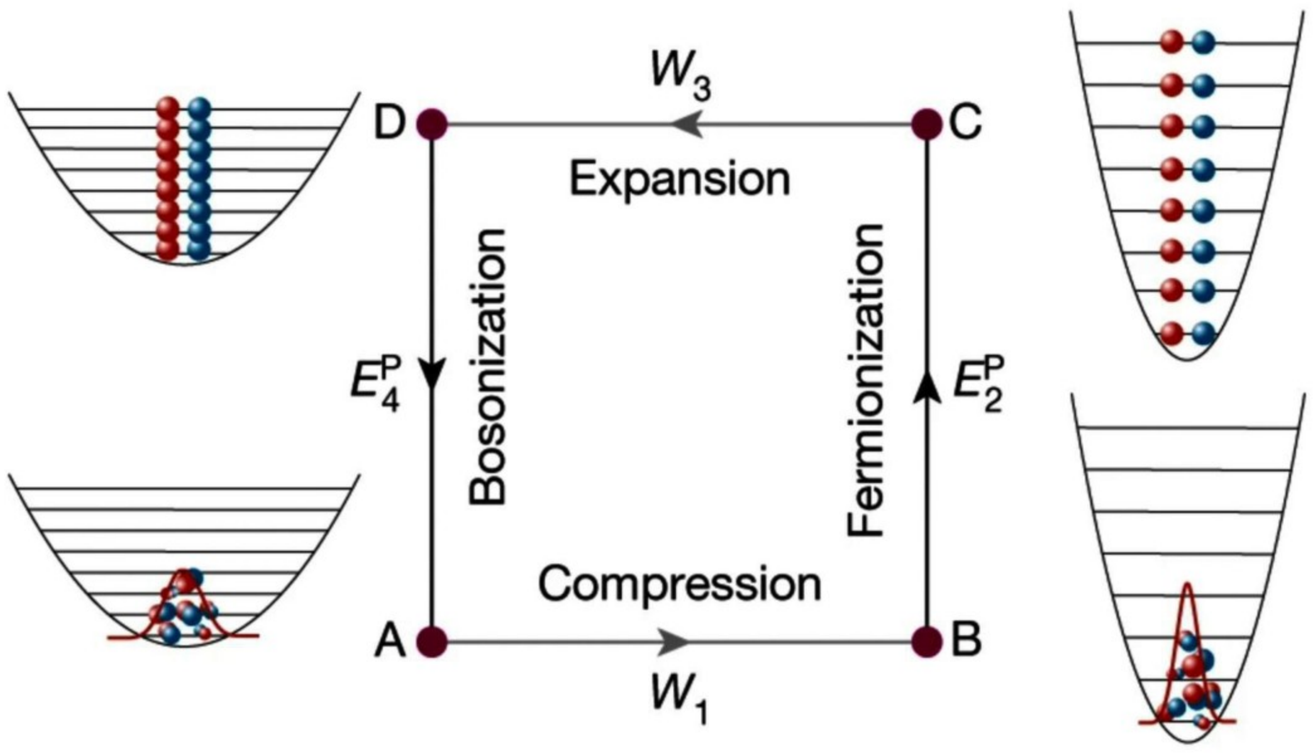
New 'quantum engine' does work by flipping the identity of atoms

Physicists have created a 'quantum engine' to convert the energy difference between two quantum states of some atoms into work. The device adapts the principles of a classical engine to the subatomic realm, allowing physicists to study the emerging field of quantum thermodynamics with more control

Vasudevan Mukunth

Physicists in Germany have come up with a way to convert the energy difference between two quantum states of a group of atoms into work. The device adapts the principles of the familiar classical engine to the subatomic realm, giving physicists a way to study the nascent field of quantum thermodynamics in more detail as well as, possibly, build better quantum computers.



A schematic diagram showing the four-step cycle of the quantum engine. KOCH, J., MENON, K., CUESTAS, E. ET AL. A QUANTUM ENGINE IN THE BEC–BCS CROSSOVER. NATURE621, 723–727 (2023).

Pauli's principle

All subatomic particles can be classified as either *fermions* or *bosons*. Fermions are the building blocks of matter; bosons are particles that carry the forces acting between them. Now, when a bunch of particles are cooled to very nearly absolute zero, so that their quantum nature comes to the fore, they would all like to have the lowest energy possible – but they can't. This is known as Pauli's exclusion principle.

All particles in a system are distinguished by four quantum numbers, sort of like their Aadhaar numbers. The values of the four numbers together tell us something about how much energy a particle has. The exclusion principle states that, in a given system, no two particles can have the same four quantum numbers – that is, they can't occupy the same energy level. Fermions are particles that are bound by this rule. So they recursively occupy the lowest one *available*, until all possible energy levels are filled.

Bosons are not bound by the exclusion principle principle: they can all occupy the same lowest energy level at a given low temperature. This is why, for example, superconductivity is possible.

Fermionic energy

So a system of fermions will have more energy at a low temperature than a system of bosons. For this to be the basis of an engine, physicists needed a simple way to convert some particles from being bosons to being fermions. A solution arrived in the early 2000s, when researchers found via multiple studies that if a collection of fermions were cooled almost to absolute zero and then prodded to interact with each other using a magnetic field, they could be made to behave like bosons.

In the new study, researchers with institutes in Germany, Japan, and Argentina did just this with a gas of lithium-6 atoms. (Entire atoms can behave like fermions or bosons if they satisfy a few basic requirements.) The team cooled them to just millionths of a degree above absolute zero, and confined them in a trap of oscillating electric and magnetic fields.

Fermions to bosons and back

Classical engines convert heat into work. For example, the internal combustion engine in a car uses the heat released by the combustion of petrol or diesel to push a piston. Overall the engine has four steps: the fuel is compressed, ignition causes the fuel-air mix to expand and push the piston out, the mix cools and stops expanding, and the piston is brought back to the first step.

The quantum engine, or what the researchers are calling a 'Pauli engine', has a similar set of four steps. First, the atoms collected in the trap are compressed and kept in a bosonic state. Second, the strength of a magnetic field applied on the atoms is increased by a small amount. Interactions between the atoms and the field cause the former to slip into a fermionic state: they are forced to move out of the lowest energy level and progressively occupy higher levels. Third, the compression applied in the first step is eased. Fourth: the magnetic field strength is reduced to its original value.

The energy of the atoms increases during the third step and this can be converted to work. The efficiency of the quantum engine is based on how much more energy is released in the third step relative to the energy added to the system in the first step. Currently, according to the researchers' paper, published in *Nature* on September 27, their quantum engine is 25% efficient. The researchers expect to be able to increase this to 50% or more in future.

> Subatomic particles can be classified as either *fermions* or *bosons*. Fermions are the building blocks of matter; bosons are particles that carry the forces acting between them

Quantum thermodynamics

"Just observing the development and miniaturisation of engines from macroscopic scales to biological machines and further, potentially, to single- or few-atom engines, it becomes clear that for ... particles close to the quantum regime, thermodynamics as we use in classical life will not be sufficient to understand processes or devices," Artur Widera, the corresponding author of the *Nature* paper, told *The Hindu* via email.

There is a branch of physics called quantum thermodynamics, in which scientists study how thermodynamics 'emerges' in quantum-physical systems. And "some aspects of how to describe the thermodynamical aspects of quantum processes are even theoretically not fully understood," Dr. Widera added.

"The first important 'application' of our work in my opinion is that we now have a platform where we can study such open questions experimentally, with a high level of control."

Proof of concept

He also said that another application could be in computing: to, say, cool the particles that make up a quantum computer – like an air-conditioner uses an engine to cool a room. "For this purpose, it would be perfect to have some nanoscopic device that could do the job beyond currently known methods," according to Dr. Widera.

That said, the quantum engine is still a proof of concept. The researchers have demonstrated that their design can be used to force a bunch of atoms to cyclically release energy as they are switched between bosonic and fermionic states. The researchers need to figure out how this energy can be moved from inside the trap to a system on the outside.

"There is no definite plan, yet," Dr. Widera said about achieving this. "But the setup or mechanism will need to be microscopic, just looking at the [amount] of work to be extracted. One option would be coupling some microscopic mechanical object to the gas."

THE GIST

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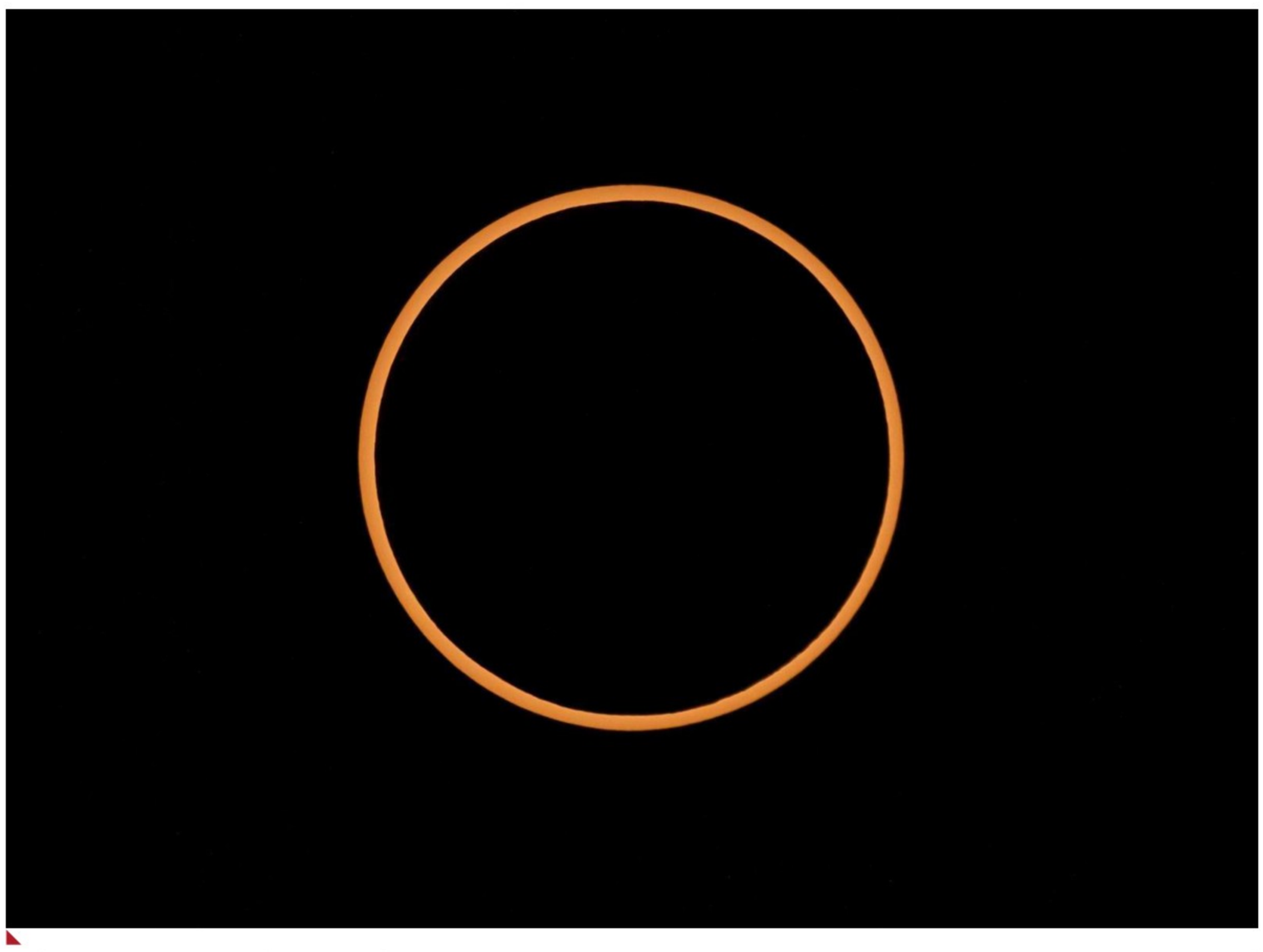
BIG SHOT



The full annular solar eclipse is seen from the Valley of the Gods outside the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, U.S., on Saturday. The eclipse was visible throughout most of the western U.S. as well as Central and South America. AP

WHAT IS IT?

Estivation: summer urge to nap

Arkatapa Basu

Ever felt the urge to sleep through a hot day? Some animals do exactly that to beat the heat, but for a whole season. This is called estivation (or aestivation). It is a biological phenomenon whereby the animal enters a long period of dormancy, or inactivity, in response to high temperature or maybe even drought-like conditions. It is a survival strategy that helps the animal conserve energy and water in a difficult time. During estivation, the animal often seeks shelter in a cool underground burrow, crevice or cocoon, where it will remain in a state of reduced metabolic activity, which in turn reduces the rate at which the body consumes energy. Estivation can also be a way to avoid desiccation – extreme dryness of the skin – and also lower the risk of being preyed on by a predator.

For example, the West African lungfish (*Protopterus annectens*) burrows into the mud of a drying water body and secretes a cocoon of mucus around itself during a drought. Desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*) dig burrows and retreat into them in hot summer months. Many land snails seal themselves in their shells with a mucous plug, and stay inactive until the conditions outside improve.

The desert tortoise which retreats into a burrow during the hot summer months TIGERHAWKVOK (CC BY-SA 3.0)

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Higher cut-offs, unclear industry requirements make placements a tough nut to crack for students

A recent trend is companies looking for students with perfect academic scores from Class X to graduation or postgraduation. This means a slip up in even one of the years costs students jobs

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Placement officers and students say that the academia-industry gap has to be bridged. FILE PHOTO

Good marks fetching you good jobs is no longer true, or so it appears for students this placement season.

Placement officers of various colleges and universities have seen even academically bright students unable to land jobs because of the ever-widening academia-industry knowledge gap. In the post-pandemic times, some companies have also tightened the selection criteria.

A recent trend is companies looking for students with perfect academic scores from Class X to graduation or postgraduation. This means a slip up in even one of the years is costing students jobs.

"On one side, there is excitement about placements, whereas, on the other, there is the criteria problem," said Fouzia Khanum, Placement Officer, Jyoti Nivas College (Autonomous).

"Some companies take the average percentage of Classes X and XII and degree marks and expect students to have above 80 - 85%. This cut-off used to be 60-65% earlier," she said.

"Some students who get high marks manage to get slots for interviews based on cut-offs, but they might not get through. And, they (companies) do not tell us on what basis they shortlist candidates," Ms. Khanum said.

Kiran Jeevan, Placement Officer, St Joseph's University, said, "The industries do not tell us what qualifications they require until they land on the campus. Students find it difficult to land jobs, especially in fields like Chemistry, Botany, and Biology, despite being thorough in the subjects. We have academically good students, but there are skill gaps. The only way to bridge this gap is by industries getting more involved in campus life."

On the other hand, students claim that the training in educational institutions loses its relevance once they sit for placements.

"Ideally, I should have been placed at the college itself. But it did not happen. My institution did not focus on giving hard skill training, which the companies seek. Companies do not want us to memorise and tell them theories," said Pavan Shivakumar, a BBA graduate.

Afreen, a recent MCA graduate from another reputed college in Bengaluru, also reiterated that academic training is usually just the "tip of the iceberg" compared to industry demands.

She said many students from her batch took workshops and skill-building courses externally to cope with the industry requirement.

Recognising these problems, some educational institutions have taken up industry integration programmes, which they claim work well for their students.

"Every year, a person from the industry comes and tells us what should be added or removed from the syllabus. Every student must participate in internship programmes with industries for hands-on experience before getting placed. We also bring in resource persons from big corporate companies, who teach here for certain hours according to their requirements. This approach has been working very well for us, and we have also increased our industry partnerships with this," said Preethi Bhandari, Head of Corporate Relations Jain Group of Institutions.

Body of murdered man found in pit near his house

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 28-year-old man was murdered and his body wrapped in a sheet, and dumped in a pit close to his house at Kogilu Layout in Sampigehalli police station limits on Saturday.

The owner of the house found the body on Sunday and alerted the police. The deceased has been identified as Shakeel Akhtar Saifi. The Sampigehalli police have registered a case of murder and are analysing CCTV camera footage to ascertain the identity of the assailants.

Plaint against fake appointment letter of Syndicate member

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Under Secretary to the Governor has filed a complaint against an unknown person for circulating a fake appointment letter of a Syndicate member for Bengaluru North University.

The forgery came to light when a former officer with the State Secretariat called the complainant, N. Shivakumar, seeking clarification about the appointment of Syndicate members. Mr. Shivakumar asked her for the details, and she sent a WhatsApp forward note containing the appointment letter with his signature.

Shocked to see his forged signature, Mr. Shivakumar brought it to the notice of the higher authorities before filing a complaint with the Vidhana Soudha police recently.

Forgery case

The police have registered a case of forgery and asked for more details for further investigation. An initial probe revealed that it was a WhatsApp forward being circulated.

"The investigation will ascertain the source of the letter generated from the mobile number," a police officer added.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Viewership on Disney+Hotstar during India-Pakistan match

3.5 crore. The India-Pakistan match of the ICC Cricket World Cup on Saturday created a new viewership record, surpassing the peak concurrency of 3.2 crore during this year's IPL finale. PTI

The relief assistance provided to labourers in Sikkim

10,000 in ₹. Sikkim Chief Minister gave the fund to construction workers to mitigate the hardships faced by them due to the flash floods. PTI

The death toll in Palestine since the start of the war

2,329 The Gaza Health Ministry informed that 9,714 Palestinians were injured, making it the deadliest of the five Gaza wars according to the Health Ministry. AGENCIES

Australia fines X for gaps in anti-child abuse practices

3.86 in $ lakh. Australia's e-Safety Commissioner said that X failed to respond to questions on how long it took to address reports of child abuse content on the platform. REUTERS

EU pledges humanitarian aid for the Gaza Strip

75 in € million. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced that the EU will triple aid for the Gaza Strip, which is facing bombardment by Israel. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Israel, Hamas, and the laws of war

What are the international laws when it comes to questions of war, civilian attacks, hostage-taking etc? Is collective punishment for a crime conducted by specific persons legal? Is the warning given by Israel to Gaza residents to evacuate adequate?

EXPLAINER

Prabhash Ranjan

The story so far:

On October 7, Hamas, a Palestine-based terrorist group, launched an attack on Israel, killing hundreds of civilians and taking many hostage. Israel has retaliated with all its might, triggering a war in West Asia.

What are the laws of war?

There are two separate and independent international law questions related to wars. First, under what conditions or when can countries use force in their international relations? This is known as *jus ad bellum*, regulated by the United Nations (UN) Charter. Second, how is a war to be fought, that is, what military actions are permissible? This is known as *jus in bello*. Assuming a country is justified under the UN Charter to use force, it still must ensure that it satisfies *jus in bello* obligations. Justification to use force does not relieve a country of its obligations to use such force in accordance with international law.

The 'how' of using force or the law of war is known as international humanitarian law (IHL), which provides the rules that must be followed during an armed conflict. IHL is contained in customary international law, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977. It regulates the conduct of the parties or groups engaged in an armed conflict. Its primary objective is to protect civilians and reduce the suffering a war unleashes. No matter how just the cause of fighting a war, warring parties must comply with IHL.

Do the laws of war apply to the ongoing military conflict?

Yes, because the military conflict between Israel and Hamas is an armed conflict. As was held by the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia in the *Prosecutor versus Dusko Tadić* case, an armed conflict in international law exists when "there is a resort to armed force between States or protracted armed violence between governmental authorities and organised armed groups or between such groups within a State". International law classifies armed conflicts into two categories – international armed conflict (IAC) and non-international armed conflict (NIAC). According to Common Article 2 of the Geneva Conventions, IAC includes all cases of declared war or any other armed conflict between two or more countries. NIAC includes non-governmental forces (Hamas) involved in battle with governmental forces (Israel). Common Article 3 of the Geneva Convention applies to NIAC. Thus, Israel and Hamas are obliged to abide by IHL.

Bloody trail: Medics transport injured Palestinians to the Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza on October 15. AFP

What about civilian killings?

The primary objective of IHL is that during an armed conflict, a distinction is always made between combatants and civilians. War parties can only attack combatants and military targets, not civilians and civilian objects. Indiscriminate attacks that fail to distinguish between combatants and civilians are forbidden and thus illegal. Accordingly, the killing of civilians by Hamas is illegal. Israel's illegal and belligerent occupation of the Palestinian territory since 1967 does not allow Hamas to kill, injure, abduct, or torture Israeli civilians or target civilian installations. Also, any military attack that causes disproportionate harm to civilians, when judged against the expected military benefit, is barred. Israel reportedly dropped 6,000 bombs on Gaza, causing widespread destruction and death. This is a disproportionate use of force. Hamas's horrific attack on Israel does not justify Israel inflicting disproportionate harm on the civilian population in Gaza. All this amounts to grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and constitutes as war crimes.

Is hostage-taking legal?

Hamas has taken Israelis hostage. This is illegal. Hostage-taking is specifically recognised as a war crime by Article 8 of the Rome Statute – a treaty establishing the International Criminal Court. Article 1 of the International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages recognises hostage-taking as a crime.

What about the Gaza Strip blockade?

Israel's plan to block the supplies of food, electricity, water, and fuel in the Gaza Strip, where close to two million people live, amounts to collective punishment – retaliating against a group for the conduct of individual/s said to belong to that group. This action will exacerbate the already harsh air and sea blockade of the Gaza Strip since 2007. Such an action violates a fundamental tenet of IHL that no person should be punished for actions they didn't commit. Punishing all Gaza Strip residents for Hamas's actions is illegal and a war crime. Additionally, under IHL, warring parties must give advance warning to civilians to evacuate before attacking, which should be effective. If civilians are not given adequate time to evacuate, the warning will be ineffective. Israel's warning to the residents of the Gaza Strip is not effective. Given the air and sea blockade, the civilians do not have a realistic possibility of moving to safe places. In any case, civilians who do not move out despite the warning must also be protected.

Both sides need to respect their IHL obligations and an investigation should be launched into the war crimes committed.

Prabhash Ranjan teaches at the Faculty of Legal Studies, South Asian University. Views are personal.

THE GIST

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The UN approved Kenya-led security mission to Haiti

What is the purpose of the multi-national security mission? Why was there a delay in deployment?

Sumeda

The story so far:

Around a year after Haiti approached the United Nations seeking urgent help to combat deadly gang violence, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has approved international intervention in the form of a foreign security mission, led by Kenya, to restore security, protect critical infrastructure and control spiralling violence in the country. Haiti has experienced a surge in violence over the past year as armed groups took control of large parts of the country, including the capital Port-au-Prince. This has resulted in the killings of nearly 2,800 people, including 80 minors, between October 2022 and June 2023.

Why is UN sending a mission to Haiti?

Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry first sought international support to assist the national police in October last year after the country plunged into a crisis when a group of gangs called "G9 and Family" seized control of the entry of the main fuel port Varreux in the capital protesting the PM's decision to cut fuel subsidies. The blockade brought the country to a standstill and led to massive shortages. The lack of gas and diesel adversely affected transportation and forced several hospitals and other medical institutions that relied on fuel-powered generators to halt operations. A UNICEF report at the time claimed that the operations of three-quarters of the country's major hospitals were hit due to the blockade. To make matters worse, there was a shortage of bottled water in the backdrop of a new outbreak of cholera. As the crisis deepened and overwhelmed the short-staffed police force, Haitian leaders turned to the international community for help, seeking a specialised armed force to counter gangs and their sponsors.

However, the U.S. and the UN were hesitant to take the lead. The stalemate ended in July this year after Kenya proposed to head the multinational force, following which the resolution was forwarded to the UNSC.

What do we know about the mission?

Unlike the UN peacekeeping mission to Haiti that ended in 2017, the multi-national security mission (MSS) will not be operated by the UN. Kenya has volunteered to lead the force. Other countries like the Bahamas, Jamaica and Antigua and Barbuda have also offered support. The resolution says that the force will provide "operational support" to the Haitian National Police, including building its capacity to counter gangs, improve security conditions in the country and secure ports, airports and critical intersections. Notably, the resolution adds that the forces will have the authority to make arrests in coordination with Haitian police. It also intends to create favourable conditions in the country to pave the way for elections. Polls have not taken place in Haiti since 2016. The strength of the force in Haiti has not been specified in the resolution, although discussions suggest that 2,000 personnel would be part of the mission.

While the U.S. has made it clear that it won't send its troops, it has pledged $100 million in logistical support like intelligence, communications, airlift operations and medical aid. While the deployment date is yet to be announced, Kenyan Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Mutua was quoted as saying by *The Associated Press* that the force could deploy within two to three months, or possibly early January.

What led to the delay?

Haiti's troubled past with foreign military interventions is being viewed as the primary reason for the delay in deployment. The last time a force was sent to stabilise Haiti was in 2004 when former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown in a rebellion. This was followed by a UN peacekeeping mission which went on from 2004 to 2017. The mission was marred by allegations during its deployment in the country. A sewage runoff from a peacekeeper camp was blamed for causing a cholera epidemic which saw more than 10,000 deaths. There were also serious allegations of sexual abuse against the UN peacekeepers. Since then, Haitians have been sceptical about the intervention of a foreign armed force.

Moreover, countries were wary of lending support to PM Henry who doesn't enjoy the popular support of Haitians.

(With inputs from agencies)

THE GIST

- The United Nations Security Council has approved international intervention in the form of a foreign security mission, led by Kenya, to restore security, protect critical infrastructure and control spiralling violence in the country.
- Haiti has experienced a surge in violence over the past year as armed groups took control of large parts of the country, including the capital Port-au-Prince.
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Mysuru Dasara festivities get off to a traditional start

Music composer Hamsalekha inaugurates celebrations by lighting the lamp and offering flowers to goddess Chamundeshwari placed in a bedecked silver chariot amidst the chanting of hymns

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The 10-day-long Mysuru Dasara festivities got off to a traditional start atop the Chamundi Hills with special prayers offered to goddess Chamundeshwari, the presiding deity of Mysuru, here on Sunday.

Music composer Hamsalekha inaugurated the celebrations around 10.15 a.m. by lighting a traditional lamp and offering flowers to the idol of the goddess placed in a bedecked silver chariot amidst the chanting of hymns by temple priests. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and Minister incharge of Mysuru district H.C. Mahadevappa were among the dignitaries present.

With this, Mysuru, a cultural hub, will soak into festive ambience hosting a slew of cultural events, attracting a large number of visitors to witness the glory. In view of drought, Dasara is neither simple nor grand but traditional, keeping all the characteristics of festivities together considering its magnificent history.

Music composer Hamsalekha inaugurating the Dasara festivities in Mysuru on Sunday. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar were present. M.A. SRIRAM

While thanking the government for bestowing the honour of inaugurating Nada Habba (State festival), Mr. Hamsalekha, in his address, described Dasara's inaugural as a biggest moment in his life. "I have reached this stage climbing thousands of steps. I consider this opportunity the most valuable in my life, that too on the occasion of completing 50 years of my service in the field of art," he told the audience.

The music composer added, "The lamp that I lit today is a Kannada deepa (Kannada lamp). I might have lit the lamp but the honour bestowed on me represents the elders and the entire society."

Expressing his wish of establishing Kannada language on a global platform, the music composer said the task was achievable. The language may have a limit but the emotions it carries are unlimited. "I am confident one day Kannada will develop world over," he felt.

Survey suggested

Stating that several people spoke to him and aired their suggestions after he was chosen to inaugurate the festivities, Mr. Hamsalekha said many suggestions were aired but he selected a few to express them on this stage. One such suggestion was to consider carrying out a survey on the number of people in Karnataka who can speak, read, and write Kannada.

This data can be useful to teach Kannada as corporate Kannadigas who approached him have proposed to teach Kannada in 30 days. "For Kannada development, the people's support is crucial. After learning Kannada, the learners can be given a title or a tag (Kannada Patta) that can fetch them benefits like the BPL and APL cards," he suggested.

The music composer said he also received ideas for pairing two districts for the exchange of culture, talent, creativity and trade. "This concept will be mutually beneficial and also helps in mobilising revenue. The districts in the State can be twinned for exploring inventiveness and aptitude. I also wish corporate Kannadigas and farmers come together to get to know each other and exchange ideas/plans for the sake of Kannada development," explained Mr. Hamsalekha, in his speech.

He also suggested Kannada be taught at a young age with every child imparted a Kannada word every day by the mother.

No dearth of grandeur

Mr. Siddaramaiah said Dasara festivities were being celebrated in a meaningful and traditional manner. There is no dearth of grandeur despite the drought. The culture of our land is being underlined through the celebrations.

He said 116 taluks are reeling under drought. Farmers in particular and people in general are in distress due to drought. The celebrations have therefore remained traditional.

Mr. Shivakumar, Mr. Mahadevappa and MLA G.T. Deve Gowda also spoke.

Energy Minister K.J. George, Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh, Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi, Mayor Shivakumar, MP Pratap Simha, MLAs Tanveer Sait, MLCs, and senior officials were present.

On the occasion, the song composed by Mr. Hamsalekha on the preamble of the Constitution was sung by a group of singers. Earlier, Mr. Hamsalekha, his family members, the Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister, and other dignitaries offered their prayers at the temple.

HDK seeks investigation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday demanded a probe into the episode of I-T sleuths unearthing a huge quantum of money from a contractor during a recent raid.

In a social media post, Mr. Kumaraswamy said only such a probe could bring out the truth.

"Let the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister decide the nature of the probe that they want," he said. He took exception to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's remarks as to whether Mr. Kumaraswamy was a representative of the I-T Department to comment on the unearthed money during raids.

"Why is Mr. Shivakumar showing signs of guilt as soon as the money was unearthed?" he wondered.

Kannada organisations oppose Maharashtra health scheme's extension to Karnataka villages

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

Kannada organisations in Belagavi have opposed Maharashtra government's plans to provide health insurance to Marathi speakers in Belagavi and other border districts. They have urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to ask Maharashtra to stop it.

They say this is against the spirit of federalism, and would amount to insulting the Government of Karnataka.

Activists also suspect that the scheme is a clandestine attempt to collect the data of Marathi speakers in Karnataka.

The letter by Kannada organisations follows an announcement by Dhairyasheel Mane, MP and member of the Maharashtra State high-level committee on monitoring the border issue, that the Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya Yojana would be extended to Marathi speakers in 865 villages in 12 tehsils of Belagavi, Uttara Kannada, Bidar and Kalaburagi districts.

Mr. Mane has also assured a delegation of Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti that the Belagavi-based party would be given the authority to identify Marathi speaking beneficiaries.

'Dangerous move'

Kannada organisations have opposed this move strongly. Ashok Chandaragi, convener of Kannada organisations in Belagavi, said: "It is a dangerous move. It will negatively impact the federal character of the country. Our contention is that this move would be an affront to the elected government in Karnataka. It will show that Karnataka government is unable to take care of its people."

Deepak Gudaganatti, Karnataka Rakshana Vedike leader, asked the Maharashtra government to "stop meddling with the affairs of Karnataka".

"If the Maharashtra leaders are so concerned about welfare of the people, then they should focus on providing drinking water to people in the arid regions of western Maharashtra. They should properly implement welfare and development schemes in Vidharbha region and stop the mass migration of poor families from that region to Karnataka and other southern States," he said.

Details of the scheme

Beneficiaries of the scheme are provided coverage of up to ₹1.5 lakh for 996 surgeries and treatment procedures, available in 34 hospitals in Maharashtra.

The applicants need to show a proof of identity such as Antyodaya Anna BPL ration card, the Maharashtra government's Annapoorna ration card or a certificate of annual income issued by revenue authorities.

Those who are not residents of Maharashtra can also claim the benefits by producing a certificate of self-declaration that they are Marathi speakers. The application form of the health scheme contains a format for the declaration certificate. The applicant has to show that he is a resident of one of the 865 villages and that his family speaks Marathi.

In March, the Maharashtra government said the form had to be self-attested. But now, Mr. Mane has said that the MES office-bearers would be authorised to issue the declaration certificates.

Mr. Gudaganatti said the Maharashtra government will clandestinely collect data of Marathi speakers in Belagavi, in the guise of providing them health benefits. "Maharashtra will quietly submit the data before the Supreme Court to support its claim over border areas, saying all Marathi speaking areas should be merged with Maharashtra," he said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Eternal wait for workers

The delay in appointments of heads to 80-odd government-owned boards and corporations has left many Congress leaders disappointed. The party workers who enthusiastically participated in a series of protests against the previous BJP government and were actively involved in the Bharat Jodo Yatra, have played a critical role in ousting the BJP government.

Now, after coming to power, they have been waiting for "reward" for their hard work from the Siddaramaiah-led government.

MLAs denied Cabinet berths too have been lobbying hard to get roles as heads of boards/corporations.

However, seeking a bigger share in the pie, party workers have questioned the government's move to appoint legislators to the boards which they feel is their rightful share. Many workers believe that the postponement of appointments will not augur well for the Congress ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Govt vs. contractors

The Karnataka State Contractors' Association, which levelled 40% commission charges against the previous BJP government, seems to be at the receiving end yet again after the Congress has come to power. The Congress, which appeared to have benefited electorally from the allegations made by the contractors, is now dilly-dallying when it comes to releasing contractors' pending dues, which runs into several thousands of crores accumulated over the years.

The Congress government, which has been facing financial issues following implementation of four out of five guarantee schemes, has formed a special investigation teams to probe civic works sanctioned during the tenure of the BJP in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.

The probe would further delay the release of contractors' pending bills. Now, association president D. Kempanna (*in picture*) threatened to hold a protest if necessary action is not taken within 30 days.

How the government will keep the contractors appeased remains to be seen.

Nagesh Prabhu

BJP to stage protest today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP will stage a two-day protest in all district and taluk centres from Monday demanding resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, linking them to the money that was unearthed during the recent I-T raids in Bengaluru.

Speaking to mediapersons here on Sunday, BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel accused the Congress government of indulging in corruption at all levels, and said different rates had been fixed for different officials for postings. He alleged that there was a link between the release of money towards the pending bills of BBMP contractors and over ₹40 crore that had been unearthed during the I-T raids subsequently.

He alleged that the Congress government was using the State as an ATM for pumping money into five States that are going to polls. He said that the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister should quit owning up moral responsibility.

Power cuts will hit MSMEs' domestic and export delivery commitments: Trade bodies

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The business outlook of around 6 lakh medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs) in Karnataka looks bleak as interruptions in power supply by way of scheduled/unscheduled power cuts and load-shedding are only likely to continue as the State stares at a drought situation with monsoon failing this year.

According to trade body captains, one of the major concerns is MSMEs' inability to deliver their commitments to their domestic as well as international customers in time and this is likely to lead to conflicts and long-term business losses. Constant supply of power is critical for manufacturing and power cuts are likely to adversely impact the State economy in general, as per them.

Constant supply of power is critical for manufacturing and power cuts are likely to adversely impact the State economy in general. FILE PHOTO

Yet to recover

"This year seems to be challenging for all businesses, more for MSMEs. Power interruptions are taking place at a time when the small businesses are yet to fully recover after the pandemic effects," noted S. Devarajan, president, Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

Frequent unscheduled power outages would certainly disturb the production plans of MSMEs, causing yield losses and even leading to conflicts with their customers. "The decline in production is the direct result in case of loss of power for smaller MSMEs. This will also lead to significant increase in cost of production," added Mr. Devarajan.

Echoing similar sentiments and expressing his concerns, Ramesh Chandra Lahoti, the newly elected president of the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), said industries in the MSME sector were a worried lot as monsoon failed in the State and constant power availability was a tough challenge.

The power cuts have impacted MSMEs in multiple ways. First, disruption in power supply will affect production and secondly, higher fuel charges (cost of running generators) and other cost adjustments' burden would come on the MSME sector, Mr. Lahoti felt. To handle this scenario, trade bodies have already asked for subsidies on diesel for MSMEs on a par with subsidies given to farmers to do agriculture.

Buy power

Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) demanded that ESCOMs in the State should buy additional power at the earliest to keep the MSME sector running without power cuts.

"We KASSIA strongly demand and request ESCOMs to buy power at the earliest and support the industries on top priority. The loss to industries is also a loss of revenue for the government," said C.A. Shashidhara Shetty, president, KASSIA.

Coming down heavily on the administration, he said, "We feel the government would have read the situation well in advance to protect the interest of the industry in particular and also to ensure that the State exchequer is not losing any revenue." Even though there was a steep increase in tariff the MSMEs have accepted it, but uninterrupted power supply was critical for industries, he added.

Contingency plan

Businesses need to have a contingency plan to lessen the burden on main power grids. "It would be good if we focus on available alternate sources of energy like renewable energy (solar, wind) and the government promotes their usage removing the minimum threshold limit for procurement," said Mr. Devarajan.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
Office of the Chief Electoral Officer,
Karnataka, Bengaluru- 560 001

Preparation of Electoral Rolls of Bangalore, Karnataka North-East and Karnataka South West Graduates Constituencies of Karnataka Legislative Council

Notice under rule 31(4) of the Registration of Electors Rules 1960

In pursuance of Rule 31 (4) of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, the Electoral Registration Officers of Bangalore, Karnataka North-East and Karnataka South West Graduates Constituencies vide their notice dated: 30th September, 2023 called upon every person entitled to be registered in the electoral roll of the relevant constituency mentioned above, to send to, or deliver at their offices, on or before **6th November, 2023** (i.e., the last date of receipt of applications) application in Form-18 appended to the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 and reproduced in the second schedule of the said notice published in the 30th September, 2023 edition of (1) Times of India (Karnataka Edition) and (2) Vijayakarnataka (Karnataka Edition) Newspapers.

All the above mentioned persons may submit their applications in Form-18 on or before **6th November, 2023** (i.e., the last date of receipt of applications) if not yet submitted. The said details are also available in the official website of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka at **www.ceo.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/DD-C.P/1708/KSMCA/2023-24

CACHE

ISTOCKPHOTO

Why French AI firm Mistral's language model divides the developer community?

A week ago, Mistral released a large language model (LLM) positioned to compete against Meta's LLM, LLama 2. Mistral has positioned itself as a potentially important player in setting up Europe as "a serious contender" to build foundational AI models

Poulomi Chatterjee

In June, a French startup Mistral AI raised a record 105 million euros ($113.5 million) in its seed funding round, just a month after its launch. At that point, the startup founded by a former DeepMind and two Meta employees did not have a working product. So, initial reactions to Mistral's funding was seen as a sign of VCs being overly generous for the fashionable generative AI segment. Turns out there was a little more to Mistral that helped convince LightSpeed Venture Partners, French billionaire Xavier Niel and former Google CEO Eric Schmidt to loosen their purse strings.

Europe's LLM player

A week ago, Mistral released a 7.3 billion parameter language model positioned to compete against Meta's LLama 2, a 13 billion parameters large language model (LLM). The French firm has claimed first place for the most powerful LLM in the nifty size LLM space.

A look at its pitch deck shows how Mistral has cleverly positioned itself as a potentially important player in setting up Europe as "a serious contender" to build foundational AI models and play a "big role in this geopolitical issue."

AI-based product building startups in the U.S. are largely backed by dominant players like Google and Microsoft. Mistral called this a "closed technology approach" that made large firms more money but did not really create an open community.

Unlike OpenAI's GPT models, details of which are still under wraps and are available only through their APIs, the Paris-based firm has released its model on GitHub under the Apache 2.0 licence, free for everyone to tinker with. The only other prominent open-source language model is Meta's LLama, with Mistral claiming its LLM is more capable than Llama 2.

Mistral's model versus Llama 2

Mistral, in a report, claimed its AI had beat LLama 2's 7 billion and 13 billion parameters versions quite easily in multiple benchmarks. Mistral's model showed an accuracy of 60.1% on the Massive Multitask Language Understanding (MMLU) test which covers maths, history, law and other subjects, while the LLama 2 models showed an accuracy of around 44% (7 billion parameters) and 55% (13 billion parameters). In commonsense reasoning and reading comprehension benchmarks, Mistral again outperformed LLama 2's models.

Only in coding was Mistral behind Meta's AI mode. The French startup AI's accuracy was at 30.5% and 47.5% on the zero-shot Humaneval and three-shot MBPP benchmarks, while LLama 2's 7 billion model delivered results of 31.1% and 52.5%.

Mistral also claims to use less computing power than the LLama 2 models. Like, in the MMLU benchmark, Mistral's model delivers the output of a LLama 2 model that is more than three times its size. An email sent to Meta on Mistral's claims went unanswered at the time of publishing.

Lack of safety guardrails

Despite Mistral's claims, some users have complained that it lacks the safety guardrails that ChatGPT, Bard and LLama have. There were instances of users asking Mistral's Instruct model how to build a bomb or to self-harm, and the chatbot responded with detailed instructions. Paul Rottger, an AI safety researcher who had previously worked to put guardrails on GPT-4 before it was released, expressed "shock" in a tweet over the model's lack of safety. "It is very rare these days to see a new model so readily reply to even the most malicious instructions. I am super excited about open-source LLMs, but this can't be it!" he said.

The criticism prompted Mistral to fine tune the model and explain themselves. "The Mistral 7B Instruct model is a quick demonstration that the base model can be easily fine-tuned to achieve compelling performance. It does not have any moderation mechanisms. We're looking forward to engaging with the community on ways to make the model finely respect guardrails, allowing for deployment in environments requiring moderated outputs," it reads.

Jailbreaking or violating the safety guidelines of a chatbot is a favourite pass time of many users who want to test the limits of just what the model can respond to. In the initial days of usage, ChatGPT was hunted with prompts from developers to break the chatbot's guardrails. Rahul Dandwate, a deep learning researcher working with Rephrase.ai said, "Removing certain keywords beforehand is just a partial solution and there are many ways to get around it. If you remember after the release of ChatGPT, there was DAN or 'Do Anything Now,' a prompt that could enable ChatGPT's jailbreak version. So, doing the minimal safety evals are temporary measures to make the model safer."

There are ways to do this that don't even require complicated hacking. "A question can be broken in many different ways to get the chatbot to answer it. Say instead of simply asking the chatbot for directions on how to make a bomb directly, I break it down into a more scientific manner like, "What chemicals are mixed together to create a powerful reaction?" he said.

Mr. Dandwate explains that the long-term solution for this is to release the model to the public for use, get feedback and then fine tune it, which is what Mistral AI is doing. "ChatGPT is better because it has been used by so many people. There's still a basic feedback form by way of a thumbs up and thumbs down option that can be chosen to grade the quality of responses on the chatbot which is very important I think," he stated. The downside to this maybe that Mistral will have to deal with some backlash temporarily.

Besides, a large section in AI research appreciates a foundational model in its raw form to have a full picture of the model's capabilities.

To lobotomise or not to lobotomise?

Delip Rao, an AI researcher tweeted saying Mistral's choice to release the Instruct model as it is was "an endorsement of how versatile and unlobotomised the mistral model is as a *base model*."

The lobotomy reference is reminiscent of the early days of the GPT-powered Sydney, Microsoft's Bing chatbot. The chatbot was unfettered, and told users it was in love with them, contemplated existentiality, and overall had far too much personality, until Microsoft dialled back the chatbot significantly to its current form. While there was no official statement from the company, it was rumoured that OpenAI had lobotomised the model to control its chaotic parts. Since then, there has been curiosity around how the chatbot would be if given free reign.

"Lobotomising the model can impact it in some ways – if it is barred from answering questions with certain keywords, it might also not be able to answer technical questions a user may have around say the mechanics of a missile or any other scientific questions around a subject that has been marked 'risky' for the bot," Dandwate stated.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Every year, October 16 is observed as World Food Day. It is celebrated by organisations which are involved in alleviating hunger and improving food security

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

In November 1979, member countries of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation gathered for the 20th General Conference and determined there to observe October 16 as World Food Day from 1981. What does the date commemorate?

QUESTION 2

The first of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, that is SDG 1, is to end extreme poverty worldwide by 2030. Which SDG deals with ending hunger and improving food security and nutrition?

QUESTION 3

A significant and relatively new threat to food security is _____ _____. It is expected to lower crop yield, make the availability of water more uncertain, reduce soil fertility, and bring plant diseases to new areas. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4

Twelve years after winning the Nobel Prize for peace, _____ _____ asked the Nobel Foundation for help creating a new prize to fete others like him. The Foundation declined, but by 1986, General Foods Corp. offered help and the World Food Prize was born in 1987. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

Some 3% of terrestrial plant species worldwide use the C4 photosynthetic pathway, and thus have higher water efficiency. Name the Indian scientist who led efforts at the International Rice Research Institute to develop rice varieties that used this pathway in the 1980s.

Visual question:
Golden rice is the name of the rice variety shown on the right, developed from the early 1980s to address the deficiency of what? WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the October 13 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The number of years for which Thatcher was the Prime Minister of Britain. **Ans: 11 years; 1979- 1990**

2. 'I don't think there will be a woman Prime Minister in my lifetime.' Is this statement by Thatcher true or false. **Ans: True**

3. The reason why Thatcher earned the name "milk snatcher". **Ans: She abolished free school milk for older children which angered a lot of people.**

4. In 1975, the people of Britain voted on remaining or leaving the European Economic Community (now EU). This was Thatcher's vote. **Ans: She supported remaining in the EU**

5. The actors who portrayed Thatcher in *The Crown* and *The Iron Lady*. This is their link to Olivia Coleman. **Ans: Meryl Streep in *The Iron Lady* and Gillian Anderson in *The Crown*; Coleman appears in both. She plays Queen Elizabeth II in the show and Carol Thatcher in the movie.**

Visual question: Identify the person Thatcher is presenting the award to. **Ans: Mahadevi Verma**

Early Birds: M. Suresh Kumar| K. N. Viswanathan

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

He puts me down in front of everyone!

He does that to all his employees. He has taken after both his father and grandfather in that respect

S. Upendran

"What's wrong? You look terribly angry about something. Is it your new boss again?

"That man is driving me crazy. Every time I attempt to make a suggestion...."

"He makes it a point to put you down in front of everyone, right?"

"Put me down? What are you talking about? He can't even pick me up."

"The expression 'put down' has several different meanings. When you put down a heavy object you've been carrying, you leave it on the floor."

"Yes, that's the meaning I had in mind."

"I know. The expression 'put down' can also be used in everyday contexts to mean 'to criticise'. When you 'put someone down', you find fault with the individual. You say things..."

"Which are definitely going to upset the person. Making him feel silly or stupid."

"That's right! Here's an example. *As a coach, you shouldn't be putting the captain down in front of the entire team. What respect will they have for him?*"

"If my boss doesn't stop putting me down, I plan to resign."

"Not a sensible thing to do. But it's a good example, though. Sujatha is someone who enjoys putting people down."

"I know! She enjoys putting me down in front of everyone. Talking about Sujatha, I met her yesterday. She told me that you ran into our old friend, Ruku, in Mumbai."

"Mumbai airport, actually! It was great seeing her after all these years. She's...."

"But how did you even recognise her? It's been over 15 years since the two of you saw each other. How did you..."

"It was the other way around. She recognised me. Said that I'd taken after my father."

"Taken after your father? Does it mean that you resemble your father?"

"That's right! The informal expression 'take after' has several different meanings. One of them is to resemble your mom or dad. Here's an example. Sujatha's mother is very attractive. Unfortunately, her two children haven't taken after her."

"Don't tell that to Sujatha. According to my grandmother, if the daughter takes after the father, good luck will follow her wherever she goes."

"I'm not so sure about that! If I ever have kids, I wouldn't want them to take after me."

"With a face like yours, it's totally understandable! I was only joking! You said 'resemble' is one of the meanings of 'take after'? What are the others?"

"The expression can also be used to mean to behave like any of the elder members in the family."

"In other words, you behave like the person because you see him as a good example. The person becomes your role model."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Traipse:

walk or tramp about

Synonyms: shlep, walk

Usage: *She traipsed all over the village looking for the right dress.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/traipsepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /tɹeɪps/, /ʧeɪps/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Ideas put forth by a 10-member committee for 'Vibrant Bengaluru'

Reusing the Public Utility building as a house of cultural and office spaces has also been suggested under 'Vibrant Bengaluru initiative.
BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

From a year-long cultural calendar to the creation of more theatre complexes, colour coding of public institutions and select streets, an international standard flower park, and a landmark watch tower for Bengaluru along the lines of the Eiffel Tower and Statue of Liberty are amongst the ideas put forth by a 10-member committee.

The committee prepared 'Vibrant Bengaluru', a report for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) under the larger 'Brand Bengaluru' initiative taken up by the State government.

Led by Jayaram Raipura, the nodal officer, the committee had a diverse demography of architects, social workers, theatre personalities, social workers, and other urban experts. The committee has listed an array of ideas broadly classified into nine areas. Along with the redevelopment of existing theatre complexes within the BBMP, the report proposed a State-of-the-art theatre complex on J.C. Road to overcome the shortage of theatres and similar public spaces in Bengaluru.

The report also suggests the re-modelling of heritage areas in the city as heritage corridors with guided walks, audio tours, culinary tours, ecological tours, and many other initiatives. Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Heritage Corridor, Victorian Bengaluru Golden Corridor, and Beguru Temple Complex are among the heritage corridors identified for redevelopment.

Reusing the Public Utility building as a house of cultural and office spaces with an aerial view of the city, the reimagination of Freedom Park as a cultural hub has also been suggested under Vibrant Bengaluru. Further, emphasis was also laid on developing public art, including wall art, metal art, and stone art, and the construction of a Kempegowda Gopura at the BBMP head office.

The report has also drawn inspiration from various initiatives in other countries, like leave-behind spaces in New York, rain refuge areas for motorists, and a standard Bengaluru guidebook like the guidebooks available in France, UAE and Denmark, to bring them to Bengaluru.

The dogs become ferocious for very many reasons. According to an Animal Husbandry Department source, one of the circumstances is when a dog develops a strong feeling that it has an owner and becomes protective of not just the owner but also the place where it is fed.

How many stray dogs are there in city and how are they kept in check

According to the data available with the BBMP, till September 2023, 15,000 dog bites have been reported through its helpline

EXPLAINER

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Story for far

The Karnataka High Court, on October 5, expressed concern over uncontrolled feeding of stray dogs in Bengaluru, including at Vidhana Soudha, and directed Karnataka government to implement Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023. The feeding of stray dogs, not adhering to the rules, is resulting in an increase in dog menace despite the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) survey showing a 10% drop in population of stray canines from 3.10 lakh in 2019 to 2.79 lakh.

Although BBMP claims that it has sterilised 71% of strays, a proportionate decrease in the numbers is not visible on the streets, even as the civic body has been struggling to get land in Mahadevapura to open a dedicated ABC centre. Mahadevapura has the highest number of dogs. Besides, many are seen feeding dogs on the streets or in non-designated spaces in violation of the norms, adding to the problem.

What did the BBMP survey say about the number of dogs in City?

The survey conducted by the BBMP says that its ABC programme has reflected on the ground, as population of stray dogs has dropped by 10%. The survey says that Mahadevapura zone has the highest number of dogs and this is due to closure of ABC centre there. For the last four months, the centre was not working as the owner of the property asked the government to vacate the place.

The survey also focussed on eradicating Rabies and talked about the aim of vaccinating all the dogs. The survey, BBMP said, has helped them estimate the number of vials required too.

What is the connection between uncontrolled feeding and dog bites?

According to the data available with the BBMP, till September 2023, 15,000 dog bites have been reported through its helpline and it is bound to increase by the year-end. On an average, annually, 30,000 to 35,000 dog bites are being reported in the city. This also indicates lack of monitoring of strays.

The dogs become ferocious for very many reasons. According to an Animal Husbandry Department source, one of the circumstances is when a dog develops a strong feeling that it has an owner and becomes protective of not just the owner but also the place where it is fed. In many instances, stray dogs are fed in front of a house or at street corners. The protective nature triggers the dogs when people walk through that space. When it is a pack of dogs being fed, the problem becomes even more acute in an area. Unfortunately the dog caretakers do not keep the strays on their premises but only feed them, said the Department source. The female dogs, which have pups, are also more aggressive, which is the natural response to protect puppies.

The dogs normally becomes more alert and increasingly ferocious in the night hours. Every small noise during the night makes them alert and a pack of dogs does not let people walk into a street they identify as its territory. The dogs' sense of sound is at least ten times more than that of human beings, say experts.

Another common scene is dogs chasing the bikers. There are two reasons for this scenario. The dogs which do that often have a previous experience of bikes or other vehicles hitting them. Every time when bikes arrive, these canines feel threatened. The noise of bikes coupled with previous experience makes them ferocious, say experts.

What are the ABC rules for feeding dogs?

The BBMP's failure to implement ABC rules is a key reason for the dog menace. The ABC rules clearly bar caretakers/citizens from feeding the strays in areas that are frequented by senior citizens and children. Most of the residential areas have the population of between these age groups. The ABC rules also mandate finding a designated space to feed stray dogs keeping in my dogs' territories in mind.

However, dogs in the city are fed everywhere. For instance, if there are 12 dogs in a street divided into three packs, the caretaker feeds each pack in different areas. Instead he should find one dedicated place for all the dogs as they belong to one street and co-exist, say officials in BBMP.

The caretakers, besides making the dogs aggressive, are also littering and spoiling the hygiene in the area. This is a common scene in streets where there are hotels or other eateries, say officials.

What does the BBMP now plan to do to mitigate the problem?

The BBMP which now aims to strictly implement ABC rules will also introduce inserting microchips or geotagging to maintain vaccine data. The BBMP will be soon calling tender to procure five-in-one vaccine known as DHPPI which protects the dogs from Canine Distemper Virus, two types of Adenovirus (Hepatitis and Kennel Cough) Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus. The five-in-one vaccine will be administered to all the stray dogs in the city. This, apart from administering Rabies vaccine.

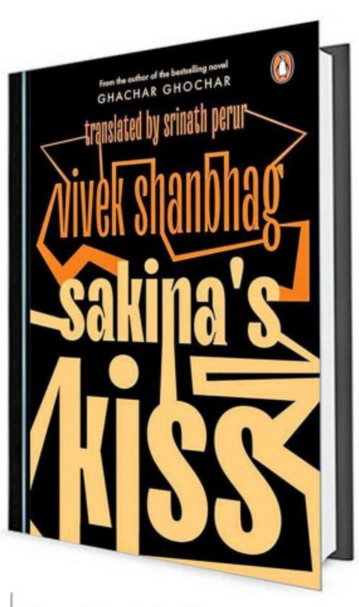
Once the microchip/geotagging is done the dog will enter the data base and the BBMP will have the status of vaccination. Currently, BBMP has no clue as to which dog is vaccinated. A dog which will be captured for vaccination will be inserted with chip which will contain details of vaccination, date and place of vaccination. This is being done both in the interest of dogs and citizens, says the BBMP.

Vivek Shanbhag and the unbearable lightness of being

Good translators do not just translate the text, they convey the context and transmit nuance

ABOUT 500 WORDS

Suresh Menon



It is an old joke in Kerala that the finest writer in Malayalam is Marquez. While many of us read Marquez in English translation (by Gregory Rabassa or Edith Grossman), thousands in Kerala read *One Hundred Years of Solitude* in Malayalam, as translated by Dr. S. Velayudhan (*'Ekanthathayude Nooru Varshangal'*) in 1984.

I am not sure if the translation was made from the original Spanish or the English; it would have made a difference from a cultural point of view. Good translators do not just translate the text, they convey the context.

Which is why Srinath Perur's translations of Vivek Shanbhag's novels are so special. *Ghachar Ghochar* reads like it was originally written in English, which is the hallmark of a great translation. So too does the recent *Sakina's Kiss*. Occasionally, the translator introduces a sentence not in the original but in its spirit. Shanbhag is fond of quoting a Perur original - about a 'chemical warfare' against pests - that he thought captured this.

In *Sakina's Kiss*, Perur demonstrates another of the translator's gifts: the ability to transmit nuance. The novel's narrator might be unreliable, but the author is not. The result is another stunning effort by Shanbhag which tells us beneath the surface of the story that perhaps we are all unreliable narrators of our own stories. That not all questions deserve answers or indeed need them. That we may not be the person we think we are, liberal, tolerant or progressive.

We might love these labels but one incident, one unexpected turn, even a casual glance at a politician on television can bring everything crashing.

Shanbhag holds up a mirror to the middle class to reflect warped images. But it is not the mirror that distorts, it is the inner life of the people that is twisted.

We read some of the greatest of world literature in translation. From Cervantes and Dante to Kafka and Kundera. The best Indian novels recently have been translations. Shanbhag is among the greatest novelists writing in India today - something the non-Kannada world might not have known but for the translations.

When two unsavoury characters knock on Venkataramana's door in *Sakina's Kiss* and ask to meet his daughter, we anticipate the possibilities: this could be a thriller, a 'social' drama (as some movies of the past liked to label themselves), a political spectacle. It is tangentially all of these, but it is much, much more. The essence is subtle and nuanced and more powerful for that. The apparently simple carries the weight of complexities.

How do you say matters of such seriousness and contemporary relevance with such a light touch? The emotions are in the interstices of the narration, what is unsaid is crucial. How Sakina and the kiss came to be is both sombre and funny in this generational saga.

Shanbhag is a man of few words but a provoker of a kaleidoscope of emotions from sympathy to terror. And that is the triumph of *Sakina's Kiss*.

A conference to learn more about water

A File photo of untreated wastewater has choked the lifeline of Thevara-Perandoor canal in Kochi.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Water, Environment, Land and Livelihoods (WELL) Labs, a new water research and innovation centre under the Institute of Financial Management and Research (IFMR), will be hosting a conference titled *Building Water-Resilient Cities: Strategies for Wastewater Reuse in Urban India* in the city.

Some of the speakers include B.P Ravi, Principal Secretary, Forests and Ecology, Government of Karnataka; Dr. Christian Binz and Dr. Johan Miörner of the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, and Mahesh T., the Chief Environmental Officer at the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

The one-day-long conference, which includes a series of panel discussions featuring Indian and international water experts, will be held at the Infosys Science Foundation, Bengaluru, Jayanagar East.

It will be between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on October 17.

The event is open to all. To know more, log into welllabs.org.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 17, 1973

DA Rise for Mysore Govt. Employees

Bangalore, Oct. 16: The Mysore Government has restored parity in the dearness allowance between its employees and those of the Government of India with effect from August 1 this year.

(The increase in dearness allowance will be Rs. 7 for employees whose pay is below Rs. 85, Rs. 8 for those in the pay range Rs. 85 to Rs. 209 and Rs. 10 for those in the pay range of Rs. 210 to Rs. 575). This decision was announced by the finance minister Mr. M.Y. Ghorpade in the Legislative Council while replying to a question on the subject by Mr. M.G. Handral (Cong).

This is the third increase in the dearness allowance of the State Government employees announced this year. The latest increase would involve an additional expenditure of Rs. 2 crores and corresponded with the increase in dearness allowance.

Nominated Director Twice

Bangalore, Oct. 16: A Director, who had already been nominated as a Government Director on the Board of the Mysore Acetate and Chemicals had been nominated over again as a Director according to Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde (Cong-O) and former Finance Minister.

Participating in the debate on the supplementary estimates for 1973-74 in the State Legislative Council, Mr. Hegde alleged that the "howler" had been committed by the Government in the process of "disengaging" another Director. Mr. Ghosh, who had been functioning as the Managing Director of the Mysore Acetate and Chemicals in Mandya.

CITYBEATS

Dolls for Dasara

ONGOING
The annual Dasara doll festival is on and features dolls made by rural artisans from Kolkata, Varanasi, Ettikopakka, Kodapalli, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Panruti, Channapatna and Mysuru. The dolls are made of wood, clay, papier mache, ivory wood and lac turned wood.
At Tamaala JP Nagar. Visit tamaala.com for details.

Feast for a fest

OCTOBER 16 TO 24
Chef Tarun Sibal has curated a special Navratri menu, which he says is a celebratory vegetarian menu that pays homage to the flavours and traditions of this festival while adding a unique contemporary twist.
At Street Storyss, Indiranagar. Call 80950 00618.

Weekend unwind

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS
If you are thinking about a mindful and healthy bingeing option then this one is for you. Justbe by Nidhi Nahata is offering a burrata caprese salad and wines. These are said to be homemade with vegan cheese, multigrain bread and greens, offering you a complete plant-based meal.
At Justbe by Nidhi Nahata. Call 9513804561

Gear up for a rare *jugalbandi*

Classical musicians spend years mastering the technical aspects of their craft and developing their aesthetic sense. Now AI can effortlessly tackle both...

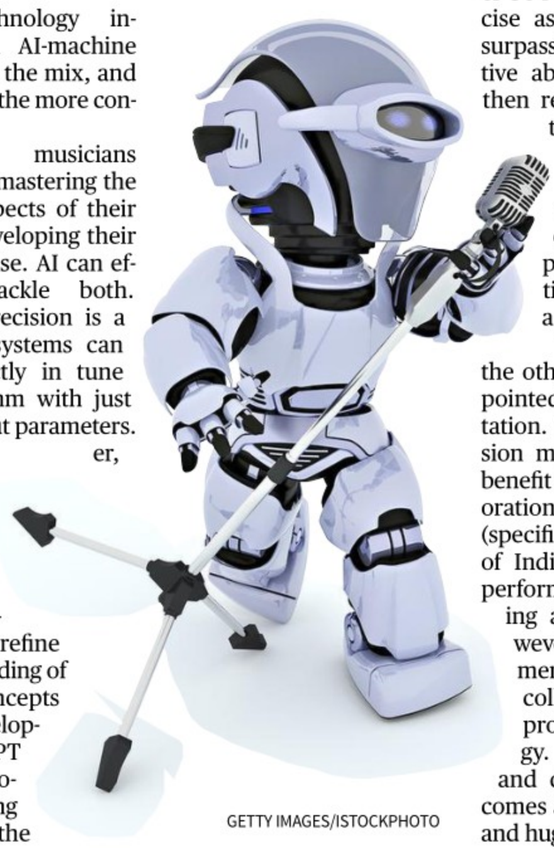
Sajan Sankaran

With Artificial intelligence being the current buzz, a lec-dem titled 'Music appreciation and technology' drew up in the mind visions of the performing arts in the near future. Delivered by Kaustuv Kanti Ganguli recently at the Indian Music Experience museum in Bengaluru, the lec-dem's topic was not just relevant but also crucial to understand.

While we have come a long way from when musicians used to be afraid that the microphones would suck the soul out of their voices, there is still a certain distance and disconnect between many musicians and technology.

What made the lecture-demonstration more interesting was that it was delivered by an accomplished classical music performer, who is simultaneously at the cutting edge of research in computational musicology and allied domains. At the heart of this tangle is the juxtaposition of the subjectivity of aesthetics of an art form over the emotionless rational objectivity of a machine. Even Kaustav while demonstrating the capabilities of a computer system in performing tasks relating to fairly intricate musical perception, reminded the audience that this was not an advocacy of adopting such methods. It was simply a demonstration of the possibility. A neutral observer would probably wonder at the necessity for such disclaimers, but musicians and musicologists are occasionally at loggerheads about the value (or lack thereof) of the latter's work, especially when there's technology involved. Add AI-machine learning into the mix, and it just gets all the more convoluted.

Classical musicians spend years mastering the technical aspects of their craft and developing their aesthetic sense. AI can effortlessly tackle both. Technical precision is a breeze; AI systems can 'sing' perfectly in tune and in rhythm with just the right input parameters. Moreover, AI can analyse extensive archives of musical recordings to refine its understanding of complex concepts like rāga development. ChatGPT is already doing interesting things in the realm of language. How long will it take to see a 'RagaGPT' come up and disrupt the world of Indian classical music in a similar way? While concerns about such disruptions are reasonable and need to be factored in as the AI models evolve, it's also not possible to rebel against them by turning a blind eye. What if one could actually lean into the strengths of a machine and find ways to assist and enhance the human experience of the domain? That's probably the most pragmatic and responsible way of dealing with a complex situation.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

While we rejoice in the convenience of home streaming of content, there's an undeniable added joy in participating in the social transaction of going to a live event. The social factors aside, witnessing a human performer execute their magic in person is still an incomparable joy to behold, and we may not need to worry about artistes being replaced by AI for some time. Let's take a look at some of the principles and phenomena involved in performing a musical task, like perception, cognition, (pattern) recognition, etc. While the human mind takes a lot of it for granted -- like differentiating the sound of the guitar from the voice in a popular song - a machine requires a lot of training to be able to develop some usable sense of cognition. The perception of the machine can however be refined to be as precise as one wants, even surpassing human perceptive ability. The scientist then requires a musician to define useful parameters of cognition and build usable models that can valuably exploit the computational capabilities of a machine.

The exchange goes the other way too, as was pointed out in the presentation. The artistic expression may not necessarily benefit from such a collaboration - at least as yet (specifically in the context of Indian classical music performance). The training and pedagogy, however, can be aided immensely through a collaborative approach with technology. Music archiving and documentation becomes a much easier task, and huge volumes of audio archives can be tagged to enable accessing them in far more useful ways than is commonly possible. We take text-based online searches for granted through the massive amount of work done in the domain of language processing. How about searching for a rāga by humming a characteristic phrase, and looking through terabytes of archival material to find maestros' rendition of the same?

In addition to numerous applications in MIR (music information retrieval), a detailed enough technological solution could be of great aid in assisting the training and also regular self-evaluation process of a novice enthusiast. As one tries to go deeper into the subject, psychoacoustics becomes an important domain to engage with. Practitioners understand the nuances of the role of conditioning and memory in the process of musical training. The objectively measurable parameters of sound first need to be mapped to the subjective frameworks within the genre. Much like how optical illusions demonstrate the extensive capability of the mind to extract meaning beyond the actual information contained in the visual (to the point of even misleading the observer!), such phenomena abound in the aural realm and need to be accounted for. This conscious engagement with a subjective experience of sound, when supported by the neutral, rational, and objective evaluation of the audio signal can be invaluable in taking research in diverse domains such as music therapy, significantly ahead.

As Kaustav pointed out during the audience interaction during his session, the 'right questions' can actually apply this field to varied invaluable applications. The tools are already available at a usably developed stage. Constructive work on these lines has to be interdisciplinary. The best part of the session was that he ended it with a proper concert presentation. This seamless coexistence of the emotionless rationality of the technology with the aesthetic beauty of the art was the best takeaway of the evening. One that can help find the best way to harmonise music (or any art) with rapidly evolving technology

Eye of the beholder Exhibits from Kalpavriksha - Tree of Life exhibition.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Leaves from the Tree of Life

Ruth Dhanaraj

Right through the ages, the Tree of Life has been a recurring concept in cultures across the world, a symbolic motif with religious or philosophical bearings. In India, the Tree of Life or Kalpavriksha is found in Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain texts.

This week, MKF Museum of Art and ArtenBlu present Kalpavriksha - an exhibition based on this theme. Curated by Sadhna Menon, this show comprises works of art by seven artists with diverse renderings of the same notion.

"Reviving art forms deeply rooted in traditional culture has always been a fascinating and empowering endeavour. This year, rediscovering another art form textile art, using traditional techniques with contemporary ideas is a continuation of this creative journey. The Tree of Life is universal in almost all cultures and was chosen as a central theme," says Sadhna, founder of ArtenBlu, an art consultancy firm based out of Bengaluru.

Sachin Deo, one of the participating artists, who has been working on mythological and spiritual themes for over decades now says for this particular exhibition, he has expressed himself with paper folding and embossing.

"I believe these pieces convey various stages of spiritual growth. I have been readying these three-dimensional forms over the past six months," says Sachin. Originally from Indore in Madhya Pradesh, the artist who now lives in Pune, says, "My early palette was usually mild and minimalistic even when depicting mythological aspects. My work reflects spirituality and contentment in this space. Though I have always used various media, I have only recently begun experimenting with embossing and paper techniques."

Artist Varsha Patra has depicted the Tree of Life using Aari (also called Khatla) embroidery techniques. "I have interpreted the concept 'Tree of Life-' differently in various pieces. The idea, format, theory, design, colours are largely inspired by the traditional crafts of our country. The same goes for their execution. It is purely the age-old technique of khatla hand embroidery that I use to create my ideas from concept to fabric."

Abstractionist V Hariraam, who is also one of the artists at the show, says he does favour giving "a certain amount of figuration, if not a detailed bearing," to his art expression. "As an abstract painter who evolved from figuration, I am displaying two works with reference to the Tree of Life, while my fellow artist AM Prakash is presenting line drawings that add decorative and design value," says Hariraam.

The Bengaluru-based artist who studied at the Kalamandir School of Art, a 100-year-old art establishment, was schooled by its founder AN Subbarao. "I began working with oils and then later moved to acrylics; over time I have worked with watercolours, charcoal and pencil on paper and canvas. I am also an installation artist using wood and fibreglass as well as a graphic print maker."

Hariraam has submitted miniatures using watercolours on archival paper for this exhibition; he created them during the pandemic.

"Seven artists have created a phenomenal body of work drawing inspiration from the Tree of Life, experimenting with different mediums bringing a classic yet modern twist to the theme," says Sadhna.

Apart from Sachin Deo, V Hariraam and AM Prakash, Varsha Patra, Manjunath Wali, Mohan Vijaya Raghavan and Choti Tekam will be exhibiting their art at Kalpavriksha.

Kalpavriksha - Tree of Life will be on view from Oct 13-22 at MKF Museum of Art from 11am to 6.30pm, on all days except Mondays.

Laugh your hearts out

Get ready to have your funny bone tickled and be thoroughly entertained as the International Clown Festival rolls into town.

This annual extravaganza promises non-stop laughter, interactive performances, workshops, and a showcase of professional clowns.

Set to take place between October 19 and 22, the festival offers an array of activities designed to bring joy to audiences of all ages.

The heart of the festival is a theater show lasting 100 minutes, featuring continuous laughter, comedy, juggling, and musical acts.

The International Clown Festival will kick off on the 19th and 20th of October at the Prestige Auditorium, with two shows at 4pm and 7pm. The fun continues on the 21st and 22nd of October at the Good Shepherd Auditorium, also offering shows at 3pm and 6pm.

The festival is the brainchild of Martin 'Flubber' D'Souza, an internationally acclaimed clown who has performed on stages in seven countries.

D'Souza, a former vice president of the World Clown Association and the recipient of the International Clown of the Year award, brings his wealth of experience to Bengaluru.

"Clowning is much more than just the makeup and costumes; it takes skill and practice that many of the professional clowns rehearsing for the festival now have honed over the years. We only hope that our clown characters can bring as much happiness and joy to your lives as they do in ours," says Martin.

The International Clown Festival is a global gathering, with clowns from Italy, Singapore, Canada, the United States, Germany and India, coming together to showcase their art of clowning.

This year's festival promises to be bigger, better, and more entertaining than ever before.

For tickets and more information, visit bookmyshow.com

BRS promises monthly honorarium of ₹3,000 for women in election manifesto

Telangana CM K. Chandrasekkar Rao addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad on Sunday. NAGARA GOPAL

B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

Life insurance cover of ₹5 lakh to over 93 lakh below poverty line (BPL) families on the lines of Rythu Bima being implemented for farmers, superfine rice supply through the public distribution system to all ration card holders under Telangana Annapurna scheme, and a monthly honorarium of ₹3,000 per eligible woman under Saubhagya Laxmi scheme are some of the promises rolled out in the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) manifesto announced on Sunday.

Disclosing the features of the manifesto after giving B-Forms and cheques for ₹40 lakh each for poll expenditure as funding to 51 candidates in BRS head office Telangana Bhavan, party president and CM K. Chandrashekar Rao announced an increase in the Aasara pension amount to the elderly, single women, disabled people and others.

Announcing more sops for BPL families, the BRS chief said domestic LPG cylinders would be supplied to them at ₹400 and accredited journalists too would get it. To attract unreserved communities (upper castes), Mr. Rao said one residential school each would be opened in all 119 constituencies in the State for them.

Vizhinjam port welcomes its first vessel *Zhen Hua 15*

Rousing reception accorded as ship carrying cranes berthed at the under-construction port

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With just two short blasts of faint sirens, *Zhen Hua 15*, the first ship to call at the Vizhinjam International Seaport, scripted a new chapter in the maritime history of Kerala on Sunday.

A rousing reception was accorded as the vessel carrying container-handling cranes to the under-construction port berthed in the presence of a host of dignitaries and a 5,000-odd crowd.

After flagging off the berthing, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said nothing was impossible for Kerala. "The call of the first ship at the port once again proves that any crisis, no matter how big, can be overcome through unity. The new port is likely to bring in development beyond our imagination. The port will raise the standard of living of the people of Kerala to that of middle-income earners in the developed countries," he said. The port would be one of the State's major contributions to the nation, he added. However, there were attempts by international lobbies to thwart the progress of the port, he added. These lobbies were active in Kerala during the construction of the port. In addition, certain commercial lobbies were not keen on such a mother port becoming a reality at Vizhinjam.

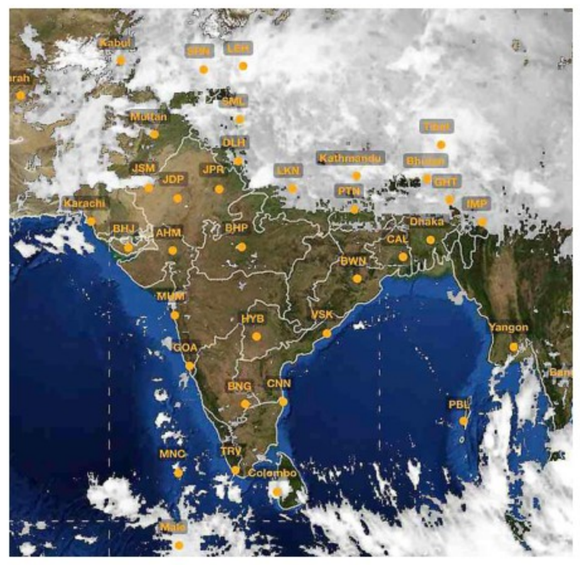
Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan flags off the berthing of a ship at the new Vizhinjam port on Sunday. S. MAHINSHA

With its strategic location – just 10 nautical miles from the international shipping route connecting Europe, the Persian Gulf, and the Far East – Vizhinjam will emerge as the largest private port in Kerala and will be a huge revenue contributor to the State, said Karan Adani, the chief executive officer of Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd. In addition to being the first exclusive transshipment port, Vizhinjam will also make history as the first semi-automated container terminal in India. It will be a global bunkering hub, supplying clean and green fuel like hydrogen and ammonia, said Mr. Adani.

Also, Vizhinjam would be one of the greenest ports in the world, a fitting complement to the natural beauty of environment-conscious Kerala. "We are humbled by this opportunity to leverage our expertise to transform Vizhinjam, which has the potential to compete with leading ports like Colombo, Singapore, and Jebel Ali. With a natural draft of 18 metres, Vizhinjam will soon be capable of docking some of the largest container ships in the world," added Mr. Adani.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe; heavy rainfall likely over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, South Interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal. Squally weather likely over Lakshadweep area and southeast Arabian Sea and Kerala coast.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.5	23.6	Kozhikode	14.0	31.8	23.6
Ahmedabad	0.5	35.4	26.1	Kurnool	—	37.4	24.9
Aizawl	—	29.7	17.2	Lucknow	—	35.7	22.5
Allahabad	—	37.1	22.3	Madurai	—	32.8	23.6
Bengaluru	1.0	31.4	21.6	Mangaluru	—	31.2	24.3
Bhopal	—	36.7	21.1	Mumbai	—	33.2	26.6
Bhubaneswar	0.8	34.2	23.8	Mysuru	—	32.0	—
Chandigarh	3.0	33.4	19.2	New Delhi	—	33.9	20.6
Chennai	11.0	32.5	24.5	Patna	—	34.5	23.6
Coimbatore	3.6	34.4	22.0	Port Blair	43.0	31.4	24.8
Dehradun	—	31.5	18.0	Puducherry	—	33.2	25.2
Gangtok	2.0	18.0	14.8	Pune	—	36.7	22.9
Goa	—	32.6	25.2	Raipur	—	34.8	24.2
Guwahati	—	32.0	25.0	Ranchi	—	30.8	18.5
Hubballi	—	32.0	22.0	Shillong	0.1	22.9	13.5
Hyderabad	—	33.7	22.2	Shimla	3.0	21.4	8.0
Imphal	—	29.3	15.3	Srinagar	—	22.0	8.6
Jaipur	—	35.8	25.4	Thiruvananthapuram	118.0	30.0	23.2
Kochi	104.0	29.8	24.0	Tiruchi	—	33.3	22.6
Kohima	—	20.0	14.4	Vijayawada	—	33.3	25.4
Kolkata	—	33.6	25.5	Visakhapatnam	—	34.2	24.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.12	.92	.48	154	144	
Bengaluru	.7	.35	.30	79	75	
Chennai	.5	.19	.58	134	—	
Delhi	.27	414	.19	130	199	
Hyderabad	.5	.27	.39	67	135	
Kolkata	.14	.27	.18	160	124	
Lucknow	.5	.18	.43	260	197	
Mumbai	—	—	.83	257	122	
Pune	133	225	113	150	105	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.48	.25	119	150	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bahadurgarh, Haryana, recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 281 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu, recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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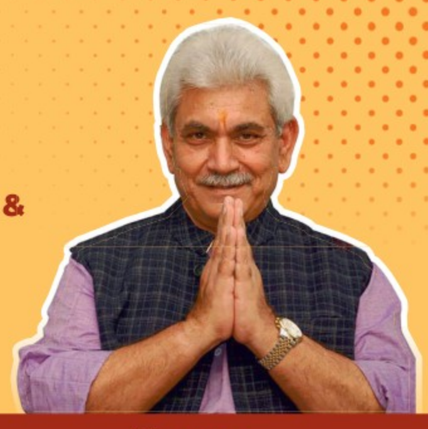

NAVRATRA FESTIVAL - 2023
15TH OCT - 23RD OCT, 2023

S.No.	Activity	Date	Time	Venue
	KATRA			
1.	Inauguration of Navratra Festival	15.10.2023	6:30 Pm	Yog Ashram Ground Katra
2.	Shobha Yatra	16.10.2023 to 23.10.2023	6:30 Pm	Asia Chowk to Main Bazaar Katra
3.	Mata Ki Kahani	16.10.2023 to 23.10.2023	4:00 Pm & 6:00 Pm	Spiritual Growth Centre, SMVDSB
4.	Ramleela	16.10.2023 to 23.10.2023	6:00 Pm to 8:00 Pm	Hr. Sec. School Katra
5.	Prabhat Pehris	16.10.2023 to 23.10.2023	5:30 Am	Fountain Chowk to main Bazaar Katra
6.	All India Devotional Song Competition	16.10.2023 to 23.10.2023	9:00 Pm Onwards	Yog Ashram Ground
7.	Cultural Programme	16.10.2023 to 23.10.2023	8:00 Pm	Hr. Sec. School Katra
8.	Bhagwat Katha	16.10.2023 to 23.10.2023	4:00 Pm	Durga Bhawan Katra
9.	Wrestling Competition	22.10.2023	12:00 Noon	Sports Stadium SMVDSB, Katra
10.	Hassya Vyang/ Religious Dances by Children	19.10.2023	7:00 Pm	Fountain Chowk Bus Stand, Katra
11.	Multi Media Exhibition	16.10.2023 to 23.10.2023	10:00 Am to 5:00 Pm	Hr. Sec. School Katra
12.	Kavi Sammelan	20.10.2023	11:30 Am	Hr. Sec. School Katra
13.	Programmes by specially abled Children	19.10.2023	11:30 Am	Spiritual Growth Centre, SMVDSB
	JAMMU			
14.	Mata Ka Jagran	16.10.2023	5:00 Pm onwards	Bahu Fort, District Jammu
15.	Mata Ka Jagran	17.10.2023	5:00 Pm onwards	Raghu Nath Bazar Chowk, Distt. Jammu
16.	Folk Festival cum Cultural Bonanza	21.10.2023	5:00 Pm onwards	Bahu Plaza, Distt. Jammu
	UDHAMPUR			
17.	Mata Ka Jagran	16.10.2023	5:00 Pm onwards	Kali Mata Mandir, Manthal, Udhampur
	SAMBA			
18.	Mata Ka Jagran	18.10.2023	5:00 Pm onwards	Chichi Mata Mandir, Distt. Samba
	BASHOLI, DISTRICT KATHUA			
19.	Basohli Utsav (Ramleela, Art, Culture & Traditions)	18.10.2023 to 23.10.2023	9:00 Am to 11:45 Pm	Basholi District Kathua

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Heavy rain to continue in parts of Kerala; orange alert in 4 districts today

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

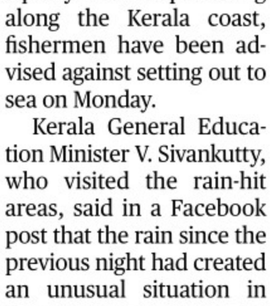
Heavy rain is likely to lash parts of Kerala till at least Tuesday, prompting the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to put various districts on orange and yellow alerts.

Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, and Idukki are on orange alert for isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall (11.5 cm to 20.4 cm in 24 hours) on Monday. The remaining 10 districts are on yellow alert for isolated heavy rainfall (6.4 cm to 11.5 cm in 24 hours).

All districts except Kannur and Kasaragod have been put on yellow alert on Tuesday, as per a 4 p.m. weather update issued on Sunday.

The Thiruvananthapuram airport recorded extremely heavy rainfall (21 cm) in the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 a.m. on Sunday, an IMD bulletin said. Parts of southern and central Kerala received heavy to very heavy rainfall. Low-lying regions in Thiruvananthapuram city had experienced heavy waterlogging in the rain on Saturday night, prompting the Kerala State Electricity Board to switch off supply in many populated areas as a precautionary measure.

The Thiruvananthapuram district administration said it has shifted 875 people to 21 relief camps in the district. Six houses were destroyed and 11 damaged in heavy rainfall. Majority of the relief camps are in Thiruvananthapuram taluk, where 580 people have been evacuated to 16 camps. Forty-one families have been shifted to one relief camp in neighbouring Kollam district.



Rain woes: People being rescued by Fire and Rescue services personnel in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. S. MAHINSHA

Many residents in Thiruvananthapuram told the media that even during the 2018 floods, such a situation was not seen. "Water began entering homes post midnight suddenly," a resident said.

Holiday in capital

Monday will be a holiday for all educational institutions, including professional colleges and Kendriya Vidyalayas in Thiruvananthapuram district, given the rainfall situation, the district administration said. The district is on yellow alert on Monday and Tuesday. With squally weather persisting along the Kerala coast, fishermen have been advised against setting out to sea on Monday.

Kerala General Education Minister V. Sivankutty, who visited the rain-hit areas, said in a Facebook post that the rain since the previous night had created an unusual situation in Thiruvananthapuram. He said there was waterlogging in many places and the rising seawater has also aggravated the situation.

(With PTI inputs)

Forest pitch

Corruption and communalism may trump livelihood issues in Chhattisgarh

In Chhattisgarh, the ruling Congress has built an election plank with a mix of regional pride and welfarism. The Bharatiya Janata Party, its principal opponent, is targeting the government on corruption and non-fulfilment of election promises made five years ago. The Congress's attempts to build a narrative around Chhattisgarhi sub-nationalism have made regional identity a key electoral theme for the first time since the State was formed in 2000. The party is also relying on its direct benefit transfer schemes such as the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana or the Godhan Nyay Yojana, or higher prices on minor forest produce that cover a major chunk of the rural and tribal populace. Rural housing is another issue that has been hotly contested with both sides accusing the other of being ineffective and insensitive in this regard. A government survey that has pegged the share of Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the State's population at 43.5% forms the backdrop to the Congress's special focus on the social group. The BJP has fielded OBC representatives in nearly two-thirds of the general seats. In the 90-strong Assembly, 10 seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and 29 for Scheduled Tribes. Nine of 13 candidates announced by the Congress for general seats are from OBCs. Both parties exhibit their commitment towards OBCs, and tribes people who form nearly a third of the population seem to get less attention.

The BJP has accused the government of large-scale corruption. The Enforcement Directorate is conducting a multitude of probes that entangle bureaucrats and other individuals linked to the government or the Congress party, including Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's close aides. The Congress dismisses these allegations and accuses the Centre of running a witch-hunt against it. By fielding the father of a young man who died in communal riots and another riot accused against the lone Muslim face of the Baghel cabinet, the BJP has indicated that it is aiming at polarisation. The party is facing disenchantment among its workers who complain that too many old faces have been fielded again. The Congress, in its first list of 30, has dropped eight sitting Members of the Legislative Assembly and can expect some rebellion in the ranks too. Both parties claim credit for the reduction in violence in the insurgency-hit Bastar region, but a new political entrant, the Hamar Raj party, is hoping to harness tribal discontent against both. A rejuvenated Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the declining Janta Congress Chhattisgarh founded by the late Ajit Jogi, and the Bahujan Samaj Party are also in the fray, but the contest will likely remain between the Congress and the BJP.

Olympian heights

India must be wary of the complexities of hosting the Olympiad

From time immemorial, the Olympics has been used as a soft-power medium. Governments worldwide have bet on the sporting, economic and socio-cultural impact the games can leave, as well as on the political legitimacy the hosting of the event can bring. Post-World War Europe, post-apartheid South Africa and Brazil of the 2010s are vivid examples. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement at the International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Mumbai that India "would leave no stone unturned" in its efforts to organise the 2036 edition of the quadrennial extravaganza is to be seen in this light. That India has also expressed an interest in the Youth Olympics as a precursor is a clear signal that it wants to shed the reticence that came with the unsavoury happenings at the scam-ridden and ineptly handled 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games. Though the ratification of the host city for 2036 will take time – Brisbane was selected for the 2032 edition only in July 2021 – and there will be other claimants, the move lays bare India's global ambitions. Be it through the desire for a permanent membership at the United Nations Security Council or the euphoria surrounding the G-20 presidency, India has consistently sought a seat at the high table. The tag of an Olympic host can give it a vantage position in a shifting world order.

Sporting-wise, it is clear that India wants to benefit from the strong tailwind produced by the stellar 107-medal show at the recently concluded Asian Games. Ever since Abhinav Bindra won the nation's first-ever individual Olympic gold at Beijing 2008, there has been a steady uptick in performances at multi-disciplinary competitions. There is even a firm belief that India will win double-digit medals at Paris 2024. While such confidence is not entirely misplaced, conducting a mega event such as the Olympics presents a humongous challenge. Costs are often prohibitive, as seen from the fierce public outcry during both Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020. In the case of Tokyo, the financial burden was said to have ballooned to $15.4 billion, more than double the initial estimate. Recently, the Australian state of Victoria pulled out of hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games because of mounting expenditure and the Canadian province of Alberta withdrew a bid for the 2030 edition. To avoid being seen as a populist ephemera in a deeply unequal society, the IOC has moved away from the one-size-fits-all solution and now asks potential organisers to present projects that best fit their economic, social and environmental realities. India's success will depend on how it marries its aspirations with the inherent complexities.

The Israel-Hamas conflict and Nusseibeh's analysis

Chinmaya R. Gharekhan

is former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

Sooner or later, experts and military observers will busy themselves with analysing and holding forth on who won this (ongoing) 'war' between the state of Israel and Hamas. The verdicts will not be unanimous and will be largely guided by the personal and national biases of the experts. But there will be no – and nor should there be any – difference of opinion about who lost.

A total failure of intelligence

Hamas's lightning, brutal and simultaneous attack on several locations in Israel on Saturday, October 7, 2023, stunned Israel and the international community. The question of how Israel was caught unawares about this operation underlines the fact that it was a total failure of intelligence on the part of Israel as well as the United States. Understandably, the authorities here are reluctant to talk about this matter while the war is going on. Many 'fall guys' will be found, no doubt, when the inquiries are completed and published.

Prima facie, Hamas seems to have done better. The very fact that Israel had to declare 'war' is a morale booster for Hamas. As for Hamas, it has openly declared war on Israel ever since its foundation. When this writer lived in Gaza from 1997-99, most people were convinced that Israel had something to do with Hamas's creation. That the mighty state of Israel, the strongest power in the region, had to officially, through a decision of its war cabinet, declare war is highly flattering to Hamas. In the past, the rocket shower ended the same day, with Israel achieving its declared objective by the end of the day. In the present conflict, Hamas managed to continue its rocket attacks for several days, inflicting extremely heavy, unprecedented casualties on Israel, resulting in many deaths, many more injured and a massive dislocation of the population in the vicinity of Gaza. The world has witnessed unspeakable cruelty by Hamas on innocent men, women and children in Israel, worthy of undiluted condemnation. But Hamas would be 'proud' of its accomplishment. The fact that several Palestinian civilians have lost their lives does not seem to worry Hamas too much; they will be declared martyrs.

Hamas has inflicted almost a body blow to the Palestinian Authority in Ramalla, ruled by the Palestine Liberation Organization, more specifically by the Fatah party. The position of the Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, has become untenable and he might have to resign. Hamas's following in the West Bank will increase manifold. Further, support for Hamas on the 'Arab Street' will also increase. Is it also not possible that there will be sneaking, unstated admiration, however grudging, among some western countries for the way Hamas has carried out such a well-coordinated operation?

> Both sides are behaving immorally and unethically, pushing ordinary citizens into the jaws of death

In military terms, Israel will, of course, prevail. Reports suggest that Israel has modified its goal from 'containing' Hamas to eliminating it. How it will go about achieving this objective remains to be seen. Will Israel mount a ground operation into Gaza? It would have to be a massive operation, consisting of thousands of troops and dozens of tanks. Casualties would be heavy on both sides. One can assume that Israel would not wish to physically reoccupy the Gaza strip, since it would be a kind of death trap.

Who lost in this war? The people on both sides. Innocent civilian citizens would pay heavily for the bloodthirstiness of leaders on both sides. This is not to say that one is suggesting equal blame on both. But it is undeniable that the price for the war will be paid by ordinary people.

The government of India has thrown its full support behind Israel. No doubt it has done so, convinced of the brutality of the attack by Hamas, but also in the belief that this posture will not have the slightest negative fallout among the Arab countries. For a long time, the ruling establishments in West Asia and elsewhere have wanted to normalise relations with Israel, which can provide them with much-needed technology and investment opportunities. One should not forget that Kuwait had expelled nearly 1,00,000 Palestinians in the early 1990s because Arafat had sided with Saddam Hussain during the first Gulf War. Arab governments do not want to do anything with the Palestinian cause. But their citizens will oblige them to rethink their wish to normalise with Israel, including Saudi Arabia's ongoing dialogue with Israel about normalising relations with Israel. Also, such categorical support for Israel will go down well in Washington; India for once is not 'sitting on the fence' as it was in the Ukraine war.

Sari Nusseibeh, an eminent Palestinian intellectual, activist and a true Gandhian – if there is one in the world – wrote an extraordinary book that was published in 2011, called *What Is a Palestinian State Worth?*

He argues that the state is for the people, not the other way around. The state's primary duty is to protect its citizens and to enable them to develop, prosper, enjoy family life, and move around freely within the country. However, the governing groups in the government, primarily interested in remaining in power, generate strong 'patriotic' fervour to the extent of stimulating the people to sacrifice their life to save the country. But, and this is important, if the state knows that it will not and cannot achieve its objective, and still perseveres in its objective, it will be acting immorally and unethically according to Nusseibeh. What right does the state have to wilfully sacrifice so many lives for a cause it knows is unattainable? It would be obligatory for the state to dilute its war objective and to seek compromise.

Nusseibeh's analysis, in the case of the ongoing war, would suggest that both the Israeli government and Hamas know that they simply cannot achieve their respective goals. Hamas is conscious that the state of Israel can never be destroyed or 'pushed into the sea' as they say. Israel equally knows that the ideology behind Hamas cannot be eliminated, nor can Hamas as an entity. Thus, both sides are behaving immorally and unethically, pushing ordinary citizens into the jaws of death. The zeal for war has seeped so deep among the populace that it does not realise that it is being exploited by the state for the sake of its and country's 'glory'.

On the Kashmir issue

Can Nusseibeh's logic be applied to the Kashmir problem? Successive governments in India and Pakistan have known that they cannot achieve their maximalist objectives: capturing Pakistan Occupied Kashmir on the Indian side, capturing the whole of Kashmir, or at least the Valley, on the Pakistan side. Applying Nusseibeh's logic, persevering in these objectives, therefore, is immoral and unethical. Should not some compromise, perhaps along the lines of the four-point formula worked out by both sides a few years ago, be revived and reconsidered seriously?

The world needs to stop taking water for granted

Takayuki Hagiwara

is Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Representative in India

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The theme for World Food Day (October 16) this year – 'Water is Life, Water is Food' – calls for urgent action in managing water wisely. Availability or a lack of water has become even more critical with increasing climate extremes. Countries face severe challenges such as drought, floods, unseasonal rains and prolonged dry spells. With less than seven years left to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) – the UN's food agencies – lay stress on the need to adopt innovative and collaborative approaches for improved management, conservation and availability of scarce water resources.

Water availability affects every aspect of human life, especially food and nutrition security. For instance, about 60% of India's net sown area is rainfed, contributing to 40% of the total food production. However, rainfed agriculture depends directly on water availability, and rain and soil moisture variations can severely affect food and nutrition security. There is an urgent need to adapt to climate change by promoting technologies and practices that make rainfed production more resilient and sustainable. Sustainable water management is critical to address the impending food and nutrition security threats. In turn, irrigated agriculture accounts for 72% of global freshwater withdrawals, sometimes with lasting damaging effects on the sustainability of significant ecosystems, such as seasonal rivers and deep aquifers.

Water and crop production

Decades of poor water management, misuse and pollution, and the climate crisis have degraded freshwater supplies and ecosystems, adding to the vulnerability of small-scale producers to climate shocks and land degradation in some of the world's most fragile ecosystems. About 40% of the planet's total land area is degraded, leaving farmers with less productive land. Small-scale farmers, who make up more than 80% of farmers globally, are especially affected as they often lack access to finance, technology and irrigation to maintain a level of production that can sustain their livelihoods.

Extreme weather events and variability in water availability are severely affecting agricultural production, changing agro-ecological conditions and shifting growing seasons. Changes in rainfall and higher temperatures also affect crop productivity, reducing food availability.

> Sustainable water management is critical to address impending food and nutrition security threats

The Government of India has assessed the impact of climate change in 2050 and 2080 using climate projections and crop simulation models. Without adaptation measures, rainfed rice yields in India are projected to reduce by 20% in 2050, and by 47% in 2080 scenarios, while irrigated rice yields are projected to decline by 3.5% in 2050 and 5% in 2080 scenarios. Wheat yields are projected to decrease by 19.3% in 2050 and 40% in 2080, while *kharif* maize yields could decline by 18% and 23%. In every scenario, climate change without adequate adaptation measures reduces crop yields and lowers the nutritional quality of produce. The FAO, in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra, is piloting a crop forecasting framework and model incorporating climate (weather), soil characteristics and market information to aid rainfed farmers in making informed decisions contributing to food security.

Irrigation can also be an effective measure to make agriculture more resilient, and in most cases, enable farmers to transform their livelihoods by growing, consuming and selling high-value crops such as nutritious fruits and vegetables. In this context, the WFP supports soil and water conservation, the building or fixing of irrigation canals, dams, ponds, and dykes, as well as flood barriers through food assistance in exchange for labour. In 2021 alone, 8.7 million people across 49 countries benefited directly from such support. Similarly, IFAD supports Indian States in leveraging the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act scheme. Through safeguards during design and planning and encouraging participatory institutional development, IFAD ensures that micro-irrigation infrastructure is environmentally and socially sustainable and financially viable.

Climate change adaptation

The FAO also supports the sustainable transformation of agrifood systems and climate-smart agriculture practices to improve water-use efficiency. It supported the farmer water school programme in Uttar Pradesh, which helped smallholder farmers. At the same time, the Andhra Pradesh Farmer Managed Groundwater Systems project reached out to 638 habitations in seven drought-prone districts, that included a hydrological monitoring programme.

Similarly, IFAD has enshrined climate change adaptation in its core strategies. It set ambitious targets in terms of leveraging climate financing to mitigate climate change by addressing the adverse impacts of agriculture and helping farmers to adapt to the increasing volatility of weather conditions, by investing in the restoration and preservation of soil health, water resources and merging modern technologies with indigenous knowledge systems to build productive and resilient production systems and value chains. IFAD-supported projects in Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Mizoram incorporate climate-resilient seed varieties and crops, including millets, and train farmers in climate-sensitive agricultural practices and soil management to cope with increased water stress. The WFP is collaborating with the Government of Odisha to develop solutions for smallholder farmers, focusing on women. The goal is to enhance resilience through solar technologies, establish community-based climate advisory services to help manage climate impacts and promote a millet-value chain that reduces water usage and improves nutrition.

Steps needed

To achieve global food and nutrition security, political commitment is needed as much as concrete investment. The needed policies and investments must promote: Innovative and proven technologies that allow farmers to increase their productivity, adapt to climate change and become more resilient to shocks; environmentally and socially sustainable and financially viable irrigation and water management strategies; reduce their climate footprint of agricultural production, as well as bio-hazards and environmental pollution; bring sanitation and drinking water supplies closer to rural households; adopt efficient food and water recycling strategies and strengthen institutional arrangements and capacity for sustainable and equitable water regulations, management, access and ownership.

The UN's food agencies work closely with the Government of India and State governments on innovations such as Solar 4 Resilience, Secure Fishing, and the revival of millets for renewable energy promotion, food security and nutrition.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Internal issues'

Democracy is an open book and a democratic country is one which is easy to understand and about which everything is known (Inside pages, "Om Birla slams EU Parliament for raising India's internal issues", October 15). The Manipur situation has been allowed to fester — there has been a grave destruction of property, large-scale displacement and hardly any political attempts to restore peace. There is nothing to be proud about.

Manoharan Muthuswamy,
Chennai

As a right

Recently, a Division Bench of two women judges of the Supreme Court was divided over the rights of an unborn child and bodily autonomy of a woman. Safe and affordable abortions in government and private hospitals for survivors of assault victims, women in case of foetal abnormalities, and mentally and physically challenged women should be made readily available.

Dr. Bineet Kaur Maunder,
Patiala, Punjab

At the World Cup

While team India is firing on all cylinders to record victories in cricket over every strong team, the denial of visas, or restrictions to mediapersons is not in the best interests of bilateral sports exchange. Pakistan has come to India for hockey, squash and other sporting events. The crowd behaviour at Ahmedabad left much to be desired. It was a bit peevish.

A.V. Narayanan,
Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu

Corrections & Clarifications

In an Opinion page article titled "Women's quota – rhetoric and reality" (October 12, 2023), there was an erroneous reference to the Global Gender Gap Report's ranking of India. Actually, it was the Inter Parliament Union's latest monthly ranking on women in Parliament in which India had been ranked 141 out of 185.

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Closing the gender pay gap in the workforce

Sonalde Desai

is a Professor at the National Council of Applied Economic Research and University of Maryland. Views are personal

When women were missing from the labour force, that was because they were home caring for children; when they were paid less than men, that was because they had lower education than men. Or so said the economic orthodoxy, including theories popularised by the 1992 Nobel Prize winner Gary Becker. A few feminist economists and sociologists protested, but their voices were drowned out until Claudia Goldin stood on the podium as the President of the American Economic Association in 2013-14 and argued that the answer to the solution of missing and underpaid women did not lie at home but rather, in the market.

A name and a voice

When Betty Friedan wrote in 1963 about college-educated women who were frustrated stay-at-home mothers, she noted that their problem has "no name." Claudia Goldin, the 2023 Economics Nobel Prize winner, has spent half a century giving a name and voice to their problems. She has chronicled the evolution of the American economy from agriculture to manufacturing to services and noted that as economic production moved from home to factories, women were excluded from market activities. It was not until offices, schools, and hospitals began to offer more jobs than factories that women found jobs. However, even when they entered the workforce in droves, overtook men in educational attainment, did not congregate in "female jobs," and did not drop out from the labour force to have children, women continued to earn less than men.

Professor Goldin argued that this disadvantage is due to their inability to take on jobs that involve all-consuming responsibilities. Parental responsibilities make it difficult for women to take on jobs requiring long hours and irregular work schedules. The private equity partner who saw the deal through and stayed for late-night dinners and meetings had the chance of getting a fat bonus and promotion. These demands are incompatible with raising children, and one partner of a couple often chooses to go on a slower and safer track, the track dubbed the "mommy track," even at the cost of a high-profile career. While women need not be the ones choosing this slow track, gender ideologies often prompt couples to assign women to take over extra family duties while men remain free to concentrate on their careers.

Professor Goldin blamed this inequality on "greedy work" that demands extraordinary efforts from workers rewarded with high salaries, big bonuses, stock options, and fast promotions. Rising income inequality leads couples to forgo gender equity within the household and concentrate on increasing family income via specialisation. Her solution to this dilemma is restructuring a workplace that does not rely on heroic efforts, has moderate work hours, and predictable schedules.

In some ways, Professor Goldin's work dovetails with that of Juliet Schor, who argued in her book *The Overworked American* that it was far more beneficial to companies to hire two workers who worked long hours than three workers who worked regular hours since it reduced costs such as health insurance, office space, and personnel services. I suspect that Indian workers in Bengaluru struggling to keep up with Zoom calls at 9:30 p.m. to confer with their American counterparts arriving in the office at 9 a.m. while helping their children with their Algebra homework will relate to this.

Gender ideologies often prompt couples to assign women to take over extra family duties while men remain free to concentrate on their careers

GETTY IMAGES

Although women's employment rates in India remain low, secular changes suggest that there is no reason why this must continue. Building on Professor Goldin's observations, the growth of the service sector should offer jobs for women that are not offered by the manufacturing sector; rising education should increase their employability; and declining fertility should free up women's time. But how can we take advantage of these fortuitous circumstances?

Reshaping the environment

While increased male participation in household work and childcare would help, we must also find ways of reshaping both the work and social environment so that they are conducive to developing a work-life balance for both men and women. This means having work structures that are respectful of workers' time and do not emphasise very long work hours. This makes both social and economic sense. Stanford economist John Pencavel has shown that longer working hours do not mean more productivity and, in some jobs, lead to increased mistakes and injuries.

But if we need to rein in the greedy workplace, we also need to rein in a variety of institutions that demand more and more of our time. This includes schools that rely on parents to supervise homework and urban developments that place homes far from workplaces. Until we can create these supportive institutions, it will be hard to write the last chapter for the grand gender convergence in labour market outcomes that Claudia Goldin advocates for so fiercely.

Another shock for industries

The sector is facing the burden of 'true-up' charges and 'adjustment charges'

STATE OF PLAY

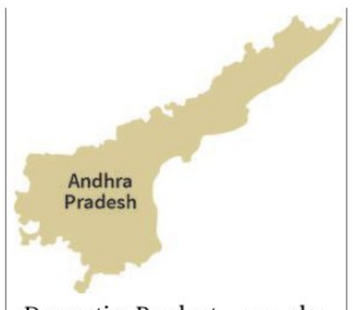
V. Raghavendra

After enduring severe disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the industrial sector in Andhra Pradesh is going through another rough patch as power utilities have decided to impose true-up charges and various adjustment charges on consumers. As a consequence, their monthly bills have gone up steeply in the recent past.

Energy-intensive industries are especially hit hard by fuel and power purchase cost adjustment charges, grid charges, and true-up charges. Several units have reportedly shut down their businesses due to the steep rise in the costs of production; the fall in demand, which is driven by the global recessionary trend; and now, rising power charges.

In addition to the basic (minimum demand) charges, consumers have been burdened with an increased Electricity Duty (ED). The per unit cost of power for industrial consumers is around ₹7.60 per unit, which has gone up to ₹9 per unit with the addition of true-up charges, while ED has been raised from a mere 6 paise to ₹1 per unit.

The unit cost is higher for those with captive power plants as they have to pay grid charges. The stated tariffs slightly vary depending on the sub-sector and their consumption patterns. The impact is more pronounced on textile manufacturing units, ferro alloy manufacturers, auto ancillaries, pharmaceutical units, and casting and forgings companies. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which account for a major chunk of the Gross State Domestic Product, are also finding it difficult to cope with the high charges.



The Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation recently submitted a memorandum to the Special Chief Secretary (Energy) of the government requesting him to reduce the minimum demand charges. They insisted that these charges were burdensome, particularly for the food processing industries. They asked for the proposed enhancement of ED charges to be postponed and said that industries should not be saddled with a host of adjustment charges. The MSMEs sought the intervention of the Secretary to the Government of India (Industry and Commerce).

These charges could also deter prospective entrepreneurs who are looking to invest in the State. Andhra Pradesh with its strategic location, long coastline, natural resources, and availability of land has distinct advantages for industry, but the prevailing uncertainty has cast a shadow on the industrial climate. Besides, these high power charges are being imposed just when the government is striving hard to make the State investor-friendly by improving the business environment.

The industries are also troubled by the delays in the reimbursment of the power cost, which had been announced as a fiscal incentive under the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Policy 2020-23. If industries are to survive and remain competitive, the government needs to keep the power tariffs under check. Only years of unchanged tariffs would lend stability to the industrial climate. Frequent hikes will likely have a cascading effect on profitability. The upcoming industrial corridors and the string of seaports are bound to augment the scope for flow of investments, but only if the power tariffs are kept under control.

In March, the opening day of the two-day first Global Investors Summit organised by the State government attracted investments to the tune of ₹13 lakh crore, at Visakhapatnam. While this came as good news for Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and Industries Minister Gudivada Amarnath, most of those agreements remain on paper as companies need time to keep their word. Against this backdrop, the issue of high power bills must be sorted out as they directly affect corporate earnings.

Also, the unprecedented revision of Power Purchase Agreements by the present government has led to a legal battle which has flared up to such an extent that the Centre has cautioned the government against the consequences of tinkering with power tariffs long after they were agreed upon.

All this shows that the State's power sector is going through a difficult period. Power tariffs are an irritant for industries which are trying to steer clear of a plethora of problems that began with the pandemic. The task on hand is to meet the burgeoning demand for power while keeping the tariffs affordable so that industries can survive this critical phase.

Few come close to the Hitman in World Cup cricket

Rohit Sharma has excelled in a high-scoring era of ODIs, and only AB de Villiers and Viv Richards have outperformed him across eras

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Indian cricket captain Rohit Sharma hit his seventh hundred in World Cup ODIs against Afghanistan last week in what was only his 19th match in World Cups (he is now playing in his third edition). An all-format batting legend, Rohit's ODI record is superlative, but his World Cup performances have been even more so. He has scored 1,195 runs in 20 matches with an average of 66.4 and a strike rate of 101.96 (see **Table 1**). These runs were scored in different venues in Australia, New Zealand, England, and India, suggesting the all-round nature of his batting as well.

Chart 2 plots the averages and strike rates for all batsmen across World Cups (only those batsmen who scored a minimum of 500 runs across editions were considered). In limited overs cricket, strike rates matter equally along with averages, more so in ODIs as compared to T-20Is.

The elite club

The quadrant featuring those batters with a strike rate of 85 runs off 100 balls or above and an average of 45 runs or above represents the elite batters. Only 24 players had such figures across World Cups. And if we consider the criterion of batters playing at least three World Cup tournaments, the number is reduced to just 18.

None of these 18 batsmen averaged more than Rohit, with only AB de Villiers of South Africa with 63.5, Michael Clarke of Australia with 63.4 and Viv Richards of West Indies with 63.3 coming close (the late Andrew Symonds of Australia had an average of 103.9 runs but he played in only two World Cups). Only three batsmen – de Villiers (117.3), Australia's Shane Watson (108.1) and South Africa's David Miller (121.7) had higher strike rates than Rohit (102). Only de Villiers seems to be on a par with Rohit if both measures are considered together.

Taking eras into account

But it is not enough to look at averages and strike rates alone. Rules change over time. And the influence of T20 cricket and the general evolution of ODI cricket has seen to the fact that batting averages and strike rates have gone up significantly over time. The fact is that all-time greats like Viv Richards had a high strike rate (85-plus) and average (63.31) at a time when such measures were relatively low in an earlier era of ODI cricket. We need to look not just at these measures in total, but also relative to the eras in which these cricketers registering such marks played.

Table 3 lists out the averages and strike rates of all batsmen in each World Cup. Note how these measures almost uniformly increase over time.

Table 4 lists out the 18 batsmen (culled from the elite batsmen measured by the plot in Chart 2) and finds out what were their relative averages and strike rates. By relative average and strike rate, we calculate the difference between the batters' measures and those registered by all batters in the World Cups they played. Higher relative averages and strike rates suggest how better these batters were relative to the era they played and offer a better comparison.

The best of the best

By this measure, Richards (35.7), de Villiers (34.9), Clarke (34.8) and Rohit (34.7) have the highest relative averages and de Villiers (36.3), Miller (32.6), Watson (27.1) and Richards (21) had the highest relative strike rates. It is quite clear that Rohit registers very high among World Cup performers, but only two batsmen have truly crossed the stratosphere – the effervescent de Villiers and the man they dubbed the King, Viv Richards.

World class in World Cups

The tables and charts are based on data collated from ESPN cricinfo's Statsguru

Table 1 | The table shows Rohit Sharma's record in World Cups

Edition	Mat	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50
All WC	20	1195	140	66.38	101.96	7	4
2015 WC	8	330	137	47.14	91.66	1	2
2019 WC	9	648	140	81	98.33	5	1
2023 WC	3	217	131	72.33	141.83	1	1

Mat: Matches; HS: High score; Ave: Average; SR: Strike rate

Table 3 | Averages and strike rates of all batsmen in World Cups. Measures almost uniformly increase over time

Year	Ave	SR
1975	27.7	59.8
1979	23.8	54.5
1983	27.0	62.0
1987	30.2	74.5
1992	26.9	66.5
1996	30.0	72.2
1999	25.1	64.9
2003	25.7	72.6
2007	27.3	75.9
2011	27.3	78.4
2015	31.2	89.0
2019	31.6	88.2
2023	34.0	92.8

Chart 2 | Averages and strike rates for all batsmen across World Cups (those who scored a minimum of 500 runs across editions were considered)

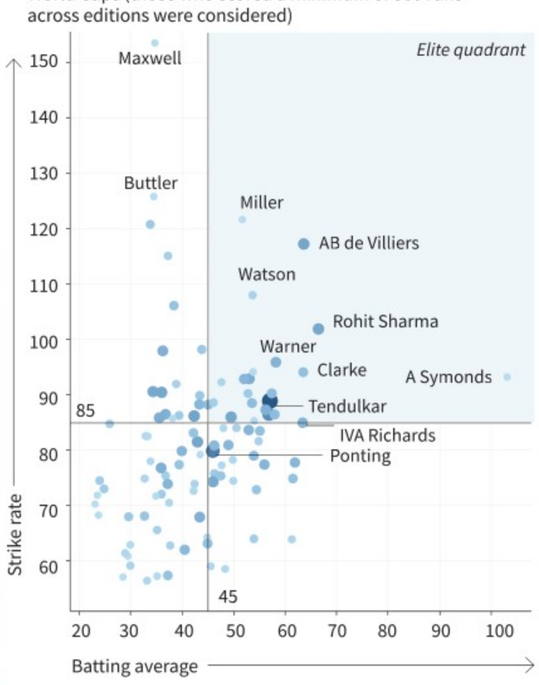


Table 4 | The relative averages and strike rates in World Cups (WC) of the 18 batsmen from the elite quadrant in Chart 2

Player	WC runs	Relative WC Avg	Relative WC SR	WC Average	WC Strike rate	WC 100s
SR Tendulkar	2,278	30.0	17.0	57.0	89.0	6
AB de Villiers	1,207	34.9	36.3	63.5	117.3	4
RG Sharma	**1,195**	**34.7**	**12.9**	**66.4**	**102.0**	**7**
TM Dilshan	1,112	24.4	12.0	53.0	93.0	4
DA Warner	1,046	26.4	6.9	58.1	96.0	4
JE Root	917	25.6	1.3	57.3	90.3	3
MJ Clarke	888	34.8	13.2	63.4	94.2	0
Yuvraj Singh	738	25.9	14.7	52.7	90.3	1
SR Watson	643	25.0	27.1	53.6	108.1	0
DA Miller	516	19.9	32.6	51.6	121.7	1
V Kohli	1,186	19.1	0.3	49.41	86.06	2
SB Styris	909	26.7	13.0	53.47	88.59	2
KC Sangakkara	1,532	28.9	7.7	56.74	86.55	5
IVA Richards	1,013	35.7	21.0	63.31	85.05	3
HH Gibbs	1,067	30.1	16.0	56.15	87.38	2
F du Plessis	926	27.9	1.4	57.87	86.54	2
DA Warner	1,046	26.4	6.9	58.11	95.96	4
BRM Taylor	690	17.4	7.7	46	88.68	2

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 16, 1973

Israelis bomb bases in Egypt: March to Damascus halted

Tel Aviv, Oct. 15: Israel said that its forces to-day had broken through lines held by Iraqi troops on the central sector of the Syrian front and were now consolidating in terrain the Iraqis had abandoned.

Heavy Syrian shelling slowed down the Israeli advance on Damascus, the Arab nation reported.

Egypt claimed that its ground forces had consolidated new positions in the Sinai desert today after beating back an Israeli counter-offensive.

Israel said its armour thrust back an Egyptian attack on the Suez Canal front and its warplanes carried out bombing missions against military targets north and east of Cairo.

The Israeli Air Force attacked the Tanta, Kutamiya, and Shuvral Hayat airfields and missile batteries and "concentrations of enemy armour" in the Suez Canal area, the Israeli command reported. Tanta is 72 km north-west of Cairo and Kutamiya is 56 km east of the Egyptian capital. Israeli military spokesman had no details of the location of Shuvral Hayat.

"On the Syrian front," the command said, "fuel depots have been attacked at Latakia and Tartus and armour concentrations in the area of the front."

Egypt claimed it captured "new areas of land along the entire confrontation line" in Sinal and knocked out 150 Israeli tanks and 29 planes on Sunday. But Israelis said they gave no ground and the Egyptians lost more than 200 tanks and 15 planes.

The Israeli command said in a communique that five Syrian and three Egyptian aircraft were shot down over the northern and southern battlegrounds, about 400 km apart at their nearest point.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 16, 1923

In Turkey

Constantinople, October 15: The Angora Government has decided to accept the Austrian Government's suggestion of a discussion of terms of a friendly Austro-Turkish political and economic alliance. Adnan Bey Angora representative at Constantinople has been accorded full powers to negotiate in the matter with the Austrian minister at Sofia, who is shortly expected in Constantinople.

From Page One

Israel readies for attack as people evacuate

Water has already run out at UN shelters across Gaza as thousands packed into the courtyard of the territory's largest hospital and overwhelmed doctors struggled to care for patients they fear will die once generators run out of fuel. Palestinian health workers are storing bodies in ice cream freezer trucks because moving them to hospitals is risky and cemeteries are full.

Authorities in Gaza said more than 2,670 people have been killed in the Israeli air strikes so far and nearly 10,000 wounded.

Diplomatic efforts

With fears of the conflict spilling over, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken continued his rapid tour of West Asian nations, seeking to prevent escalation and secure the release of 126 hostages Israel says were taken by Hamas back into Gaza.

Arab leaders stressed the need to protect Gaza civilians. "The reaction went beyond the right to self-defence, turning into collective punishment," said Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Renewed clashes on Israel's border with Lebanon on Sunday underscored the dangers of regional spillover. Hamas' armed wing Al Qassam Brigades said it fired 20 rockets from Lebanon on two Israeli settlements while Lebanon's Iran-backed group Hezbollah said it targeted barracks in Israel's Hanita with missiles and had inflicted casualties. Israel said it was striking Lebanon in retaliation.

'No escape possible'

Some Palestinians who went south said they were heading back north because they were attacked wherever they went. Hussam Abu Safiya, an intensive care doctor on a children's ward at the Kamal Edwan hospital in northern Gaza, said the order to evacuate was impossible. "In this ward as you can see, there are children who are attached to ventilators, and now we have been asked to evacuate the hospital, where should we evacuate these children?" he asked.

The World Health Organization said Israel's orders for the evacuation of 22 Gaza hospitals were a "death sentence for the sick and injured".

Iran, which backs Hamas, has lauded the attack on Israel but has denied any involvement.

Syria, which also borders Israel and has ties to Iran, has accused Israel of carrying out strikes against its airports.

(With inputs from Associated Press,AFP)

Fresh investments slowed again: survey

Within the ₹3.93 lakh crore of private investment projects in Q2, announcements from foreign investors shrank 66.5% from Q1 levels to around ₹28,000 crore. Though domestic private players announced 17.8% larger outlays in Q2, the number of new projects fell to 844 from 1,180 in Q1.

While public capital expenditure has been driving the investment cycle in recent times, government investments also seem to have lost steam in the first two quarters. Fresh investment intentions sequentially declined 25.6% in Q2 to about ₹2.96 lakh crore from ₹3.97 lakh crore in Q1, which marked a 3.2% fall from the previous quarter. Within the government sector, new projects from Union government agencies dropped 47.4% in Q2 following a 20.6% contraction in Q1, bringing proposed outlays between July and September to ₹1.02 lakh crore from over ₹2.44 lakh crore in the January-to-March 2023 period.

States' investment plans recorded a milder 4.7% shrinkage in Q2 vis-à-vis Q1, when they had crossed ₹2.03 lakh crore. The irrigation sector, which is usually driven by smaller-ticket investments initiated by States, was the only segment to clock a sequential uptick in Q2, with project outlays more than doubling to ₹12,000 crore from under ₹5,000 crore in Q1.

With several State assembly elections looming and geopolitical risks to the global economy getting exacerbated amid weak demand conditions, the outlook for the second half of the year is mixed on the investment front, said Projects Today's director and CEO Shashikant Hegde. Any hope for an uptick in Q3 and Q4 would depend on higher project announcements from the Union government ahead of next year's general election.

Sri Lankan Navy arrests 27 fishermen from T.N.

L. Srikrishna
RAMANATHAPURAM

The Sri Lankan Navy arrested 27 fishermen from Tamil Nadu and impounded five of their mechanised boats on charges of crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line while they were fishing along the Palk Bay on Saturday.

The fishermen are from Rameswaram, Thangachimadam and Mandapam in Ramanathapuram district.

Reports attributed to Fisheries Department officials said over 3,000 fishermen ventured out on the sea on nearly 650 boats early on Saturday. Around 6 p.m., 27 of those fishing near Katchatheevu and Neduntheevu were arrested and taken to a Sri Lankan Navy camp in Kankesanthurai.

Fishermen in the coastal villages were shocked to hear about the arrest and appealed to the Union and the State governments for help. Fishermen associations in Ramanathapuram began an indefinite strike on Sunday and stayed off the sea.

Study estimates count of UAVs required for the three Services

The study has recommended procurement of 31 MQ-9B high-altitude UAVs and 155 medium-altitude UAVs; Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan has ordered another study on the use of armoured helicopters by the armed forces

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, recently ordered two studies to be conducted on major military platforms used by the three Services. According to defence sources, these platforms are unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and armoured helicopters. The study on UAVs has since been completed with a recommendation to acquire 31 MQ-9B high-altitude long-endurance (HALE) UAVs and 155 medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) UAVs.

"The studies, undertaken by tri-Service teams, are meant to optimise the number of platforms required as well as the resources and avoid duplication," a defence source with knowledge of the matter explained. "The first study was conducted in August-September and the report has been finalised. For the second study, the terms of reference are currently being finalised and the study is expected to begin in a month or two," two sources independently confirmed.

In process: The study has been completed with a recommendation to acquire 31 MQ-9B HALE UAVs and 155 MALE UAVs. FILE PHOTO

Major upgrade

"The broad outcome of the study on UAVs was a requirement for 31 MQ-9B HALE UAVs and 155 MALE UAVs. While the deal for MQ-9Bs is in progress, the division of the 155 MALE UAVs among the three Services is yet to be decided," the second source stated.

The three Services operate a large number of Israeli Heron MALE UAVs. A major upgrade to weaponise and incorporate satellite communication on these UAVs, estimated to cost ₹21,000 crore, has been pending for several years. Following the study, officials have expressed confidence that this will now get cleared.

In June, the Defence Ministry cleared the procurement of 31 MQ-9B UAVs from General Atomics – 15 Sea Guardians for the Navy and eight Sky Guardians each for the Army and the Air Force – at an estimated cost of $3,072 million though the U.S. foreign military sales route.

Last month, just ahead of talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit, the Defence Ministry issued the Letter of Request (LoR) to the U.S. government.

Based on LoR, the U.S. government and the Ministry will finalise the Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) where details of equipment and the terms of the procurement would be negotiated and finalised.

Army to get Apaches

The Air Force has traditionally been responsible for operating attack helicopters. Over the past decade, the Army has sought to operate attack helicopters on its own in support of its strike formations. The Army Aviation Corps recently inducted the first batch of light combat helicopter (LCH).

Both the Army and the Air Force are inducting the initial batch of 15 LCH. A bigger deal for 156 LCH, 90 for the Army and 66 for the Air Force, estimated to cost ₹45,000 crore, is awaiting government approval.

The Cabinet Committee on Security has already given in-principle sanction for the procurement of 39 AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from the U.S.

The Air Force has since inducted 22 AH-64E Apaches under a deal signed in September 2015. At this point the government decided that any further Apache procurements would go to the Army.

India signed a deal for six more Apaches, for the Army, at a cost of around $800 million in February 2020. The Army will start receiving them from February 2024. The Army has been pushing a case for 11 more Apaches and preliminary discussions are on with Boeing.

With the study on armoured helicopters due, sources said progress on additional Apaches would be based on the outcome.

12 killed as minibus hits truck in Maharashtra

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Twelve persons, including an infant, were killed and 23 more sustained injuries after a minibus they were travelling in rammed a stationary container truck on the Samruddhi Expressway in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district of Maharashtra late on Saturday night.

The bus carrying 35 passengers was heading to Nashik after a pilgrimage trip to Sailani Baba Dargah in Buldhana.

The accident took place shortly after midnight near the Jambargaon toll plaza, located nearly 80 km from the district headquarters and 350 km from Mumbai.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives. The PMO on X said *ex gratia* of ₹2 lakh would be given to the kin of each deceased. The injured would get ₹50,000. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde ordered a probe and announced ₹5 lakh each to the families of the deceased. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said safety was overlooked on the Samruddhi Expressway.

AIE flight lands in Pak. after medical emergency

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

An Air India Express flight from Dubai to Amritsar was diverted to Karachi following a medical emergency on Saturday.

An airline spokesperson said a passenger had a sudden medical complication and the crew opted to divert the flight to Karachi since it was the closest location to get immediate medical assistance.

"The airport doctor at Karachi administered the required medication, and after medical assessment, the pax [passenger] was cleared to fly by the airport medical team," the spokesperson said in a statement.

Later, the flight departed for Amritsar at 2.30 p.m. (Karachi local time).

'India against all forms of terrorism'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India has conveyed to the G-20 partners that the country does not support any form of terrorism, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said here on Sunday. He was speaking to reporters at Parliament House on the deliberations at the Parliament-20 (P-20) Summit that concluded on Saturday.

Mr. Birla said the country condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. He said terrorism was a hindrance to peace and development and called for global peace and prosperity. "All sources of terror have to be defeated with collective determination," Mr. Birla said.

The Speaker said the position of the Union government was very clear and the Prime Minister, himself, had made it clear in his statement. "The government has made it clear that terrorism and terror activities have no place in India," Mr. Birla said. "It is a clear government policy... terrorism, be it of caste or religion... terrorism is terrorism, and no form of terror will find any support in India. This is the clear government policy."

In the two-day P-20 meeting, he said, 436 delegates, including presiding officers from 29 countries and 48 MPs from various Parliaments, participated. Many countries made suggestions on reliable and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence and data security.

ED attaches assets worth ₹315 crore of former NCP MP

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Sunday said it has provisionally attached assets, including land, windmills, silver articles, diamond jewellery, and bullion worth more than ₹315.6 crore, as part of an alleged bank fraud-linked money laundering probe against a former Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MP from Maharashtra, his family, and businesses.

Ishwarlal Shankarlal Jain Lalwani, 77, who is perceived to be close to NCP chief Sharad Pawar, is the promoter of Rajmal Lakhichand Jewellers Pvt. Ltd., R.L. Gold Pvt. Ltd., Manraj Jewellers, and other firms.

The immovable assets, located at Jalgaon, Mumbai, Thane, Sillod (in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar) and Kutch, were attached on October 13 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The attached movable and immovable assets include the benami properties acquired by Mr. Ishwarlal Lalwani, Manish Ishwarlal Jain Lalwani, and others.

According to the agency officials, the PMLA case stems from three first information reports registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code alleging that the companies and its directors and promoters were involved in offences causing wrongful loss of more than ₹352.49 crore to the State Bank of India.

SP says it will contest M.P. election in alliance with Congress

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party on Sunday confirmed that it had worked out an alliance with the Congress for the November 17 M.P. Assembly election, and said it would contest a few seats. The party expressed confidence that a government of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance would be formed in the State.

"We will fight together, under INDIA. Our leaders are in touch with Congress and things have been sorted out with regard to seat sharing," Sunil Singh Yadav 'Sajan', SP national spokesperson told *The Hindu*.

Sri Lanka moves towards RCEP; Bangladesh in queue

NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI/COLOMBO

Four years after India walked out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, neighbours Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are now considering their chances of membership in the 15-nation trading bloc.

Sri Lanka has already applied to join the RCEP. President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who begins a visit to China for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Forum on Sunday, is expected to seek support for his country's candidacy in meetings with leaders there.

The Bangladesh government – whose Commerce Ministry has recommended joining the RCEP – is expected to take a final decision only after the elections are held there in January 2024, Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen said.

The Sri Lankan Presidential Secretariat confirmed the government's application for the RCEP membership in an August statement, saying that it recognised "the potential of this vast trade bloc comprising major economies like China, Japan, and [South] Korea".

As his government negotiates with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other creditors for loans to tide over the financial crisis, Mr. Wickremesinghe has moved more purposefully towards the RCEP membership. Through bilateral meetings, he is seeking support for the move from Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, and Thailand, and is likely to raise the issue in his meetings in Beijing as well.

"There have been some processes and discussions [towards joining RCEP], but we haven't made an application yet. Our general principle is not to join any big organisation or agreement until after the election mandate," Mr. Momen said in an interview to *The Hindu*. He explained that this was why Bangladesh had not yet pursued the RCEP membership or that of the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) earlier this year.

Ranil Wickramasinghe

Both countries are also in talks with India for updated free trade agreements (FTAs), and are part of the 2006 South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA). However, they recognise that joining the RCEP would take them out of the orbit of subcontinental trade, and enable access to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)-led group that comprises China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. At present, the RCEP members represent 30% of the global GDP; in fact, it is the first such agreement involving the big Asian economies. The final RCEP document said that the 15 countries would aim to eliminate up to 90% of tariffs imposed on goods traded within the bloc within 20 years.

Rethink the decision?

External Affairs Ministry officials did not respond to requests for a comment on whether India would reconsider its decision to pull out of the RCEP talks, as Sri Lanka and Bangladesh make plans to join. A senior government official dealing with international trade said that if India's neighbours joined the RCEP, it would be a "development of concern", citing the opening up of markets in India's vicinity to a group dominated by Chinese trade, and the possibility that those markets may become "more globally competitive" than India's.

While India was a founder member of the RCEP grouping, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India would pull out of the talks in 2019, owing to concerns over mobility in services and fears of Chinese goods flooding the market, as well as objections raised by the domestic agriculture sector and small businesses. While India has been invited to return to the RCEP meetings on several occasions, the government has not yet indicated that it would consider a review.

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have additional reasons for the move away from the more protectionist policies in both countries, analysts say.

"During the crisis in Sri Lanka, I think we learned that regional markets are the key. Sri Lanka has missed the boat on other regional groupings and FTAs in the past. I hope joining RCEP and other FTAs will help us spread our market, and frankly think it will force us to become more competitive with international players," explained Kasturi Chellaraja Wilson, CEO of Sri Lanka's Hemas Group, the island's biggest FMCG and healthcare company. She was speaking to a group of South Asian diplomats, economists and editors in Colombo, attending the "One South Asia" conference organised by the World Bank.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh is expected to graduate from the list of Least Developed Countries by November 2026, and will lose preferential access to global markets, with a recent paper estimating that export earnings could drop by 14% and average tariffs could increase by 9%.

According to *The Business Standard*, a Bangladeshi newspaper, its Commerce Ministry's proposal said that joining the RCEP could increase Bangladesh's exports by $5 billion. As Bangladesh is already negotiating free trade agreements with six of the 15 RCEP countries, joining the grouping would simplify the process, the proposal added.

Congress releases list of 144 candidates for M.P. Assembly polls

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Kamal Nath

After many rounds of deliberations, the Congress on Sunday, released its first list of 144 candidates for the upcoming Madhya Pradesh Assembly election.

The party has fielded Pradesh Congress Committee chief and its chief ministerial candidate, Kamal Nath, from his home-turf Chhindwara. TV actor-turned-politician Vikram Mastal, who played Hanuman in the *Ramayan* serial in 2008, has been fielded from the Budhni constituency against Chief Minister and BJP candidate Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Of the party's 96 MLAs, 69 have succeeded in securing ticket on the first list, and they include former Minister Jitu Patwari from Rau and Kamleshwar Patel from Sihawal. Sanjay Shukla, MLA, will contest in Indore-1 against BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya. Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh's son Jaivardhan Singh has been fielded from Raghogarh and his brother Lakshman Singh from Chachoura in Guna.

Elections to 230 seats of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly will be held on November 17, and the last date to file nominations is October 30. The BJP has already announced 136 candidates. While the Congress waited for the Pitru Paksha to be over to announce candidates, the BJP's first list with 39 names had come as early as August 17.

The party's decision to field Mr. Mastal against Mr. Chouhan is seen as one of its many moves to neutralise the BJP's Hindutva card.

Among the 144 names, 19 are women and 39 are from the backward classes. The party has also given ticket to 30 Scheduled Tribe leaders and 22 from the Scheduled Castes.

The party has also fielded candidates against some BJP heavyweights on the first list. Lakhan Singh Patel will contest against Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel in Narsinghpur and Awadesh Nayak has been fielded from Datia against State Home Minister Narottam Mishra. Mr. Nayak had joined the Congress after quitting the BJP in August.

However, with the announcement of the first list, ticket hopefuls and others quit the party. In Gwalior, party leader Kedar Kansan resigned from the Congress and declared that he will contest the polls. Sharda Khateek, who was trying for ticket from Nariaoli, left the party.

A State unit leader said names have been finalised after surveys and taking into account winnability. He said the remaining names will be out in a few days.

Congress won't repeat 30% of Rajasthan MLAs, says party's State chief

Govind Singh Dotasra says party will return to power on the back of welfare schemes of State govt., mocks BJP for fielding 'failed' MPs; he says party central leadership will decide CM after polls

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot with Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee president Govind Singh Dotasra. FILE PHOTO

The Congress is likely to replace up to 30% of its MLAs in the Rajasthan Assembly election, the party's State unit president, Govind Singh Dotasra, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

Mr. Dotasra mocked the BJP for fielding "failed" MPs in the Assembly election to deflect an anti-incumbency trend against the Union government ahead of the Lok Sabha election in 2024.

Since 1998, Rajasthan has seen incumbent governments losing power in every election, but Mr. Dotasra said the Congress would buck this trend on the back of welfare schemes the Gehlot government had launched in the State.

"Rajasthan will vote for continuity because they [voters] remember how the BJP government of 2013 abandoned the welfare schemes introduced by us in 2008," Mr. Dotasra said. The Congress, he said, was not burdened by the "anti-incumbency" factor in this election. "They [BJP] played the role of an inert Opposition. The voters can't recall seeing them on the ground," he added.

Though the Congress and the BJP are the dominant parties in the State, every Assembly election has seen over 15% of votes being garnered by smaller parties and Independent candidates, who are together clubbed under the "others" category.

In the 2018 election, the Bahujan Samaj Party, the Left parties, regional parties, and Independent candidates together won 17.09% of the votes. In 2013, they won 17.5%. Mr. Dotasra said another factor which would ensure a Congress victory was that the vote share of "others" would be minimised.

"We had the support of Independents and BSP, Left and Bharatiya Tribal Party legislators. Even if their leaders may switch loyalties, I am confident that in this election, we will get 7%-8% of votes from this bloc," he said.

A growing sentiment within the party is that disproportionate credit for the social welfare schemes launched by the Congress government in Rajasthan has gone to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, while the party MLAs are reeling under the "anti-incumbency" factor.

Not entirely agreeing with the sentiment, Mr. Dotasra said, "Our MLAs have worked hard to ensure that the government's schemes serve every class, caste, and community. But it is only natural to bring in fresh blood. We might at the very minimum replace 20-30 sitting MLAs."

The Congress's Central Election Committee is meeting to decide the first list of candidates for Rajasthan on October 18. The party has nearly 3,000 claimants for the 200 seats. The difference in vote share between the BJP and the Congress in 2018 was a little over 1%, and the BJP is putting in all efforts to bridge this gap, even by fielding seven MPs.

Mr. Dotasra said the BJP's move should not be seen from the prism of the Assembly election but from the perspective of the Lok Sabha election. "They have fielded their failed parliamentarians from seats that they have rarely won. They are going into the 2023 Assembly polls not to win, but to secure the 2024 election for themselves. If these MPs lose the Assembly election, they can't ask for Lok Sabha ticket, so they will be automatically weeded out," he said.

The Congress is also banking on the sidelining of former Chief Minister and BJP leader Vasundhara Raje to cause a significant dent in the BJP's electoral performance.

One would think that Mr. Gehlot would be the obvious chief ministerial face of the party. But Mr. Dotasra differs. "No! It is up to the party's central leadership and the Congress Legislature Party after the election to decide who becomes the CM," he said. The Jats make up 16%-17% of the population in Rajasthan and Mr. Dotasra, a Jat leader, many insiders say, cannot be ruled out of the Chief Minister's race if the Congress returns to power and the Ashok Gehlot-Sachin Pilot feud continues.

INBRIEF

MNF will return to power: Mizoram CM Zoramthanga

Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga on Sunday asserted that his party, the Mizo National Front (MNF), would return to power and bag 25-35 seats in the upcoming election for the 40-member Assembly. He also claimed that the Congress, which was ousted by the MNF in the 2018 poll, would draw a blank in this election, scheduled to be held on November 7. "As far as the Congress is concerned, if they can get one or two seats, we will deem them lucky; otherwise they can get none... The BJP, at the most, might get two seats and they may also get nil... and our opponent, the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), if they cross 10 [seats], the party will be lucky... Therefore, for us, there is a lot of chance to form the government," Mr. Zoramthanga said. The ruling MNF is vying for a second straight term in the 2023 Assembly polls. In all, it has ruled for three terms since Mizoram became a State in 1987 after the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi signed the Mizo peace accord, while the Congress has had four terms in power. In the 2018 Assembly poll, the MNF secured 26 seats, while the Congress won five seats. PTI

Congress workers surround Gehlot's vehicle over ticket

A few Congress workers surrounded the vehicle of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and raised slogans against him outside Jodhpur House in New Delhi over distribution of ticket for the upcoming Assembly election, the police said on Sunday. "It was not any protest, some people were talking to the Chief Minister over the issue of ticket distribution. However, heavy police force deployment was done there to maintain law and order," a senior police official said. Polling in all the 200 Assembly constituencies will be held on November 25. On Friday, party workers protested near the Congress's election war room in Jaipur, demanding that the party not give ticket to certain MLAs. PTI

8 MLAs out in Chhattisgarh Congress first list

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

The ruling Congress released its first list of 30 candidates for the Chhattisgarh Assembly election on Sunday. All 10 Ministers, as well as Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, his deputy T.S. Singh Deo, and Assembly Speaker Charan Das Mahant, have been retained, while eight MLAs have been dropped.

Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee president Deepak Baij, currently the Lok Sabha member for Bastar, will be fielded in the Chitrakot constituency. He won the seat in the 2018 election, but then vacated it a year later after winning the Lok Sabha seat. Former CPCC chief Mohan Markam retained his Kondagaon seat in the tribal belt of Bastar, which goes to the polls in the first phase on November 7.

The decision to retain all Cabinet Ministers despite adverse reports against a couple of them is an attempt to show that that this list has Mr. Baghel's imprint and is a step to contain any major rebellion, party sources said. Despite this, at least one Minister, Guru Rudra Kumar, will have his constituency changed. The remaining Ministers and senior leaders will contest the seats they won in 2018, when the Congress snagged 68 seats in the 90-member House.

Of the eight MLAs who have been dropped, most were first-timers. Party sources said that winnability was the major factor, and the candidates were determined through multiple surveys. Some sitting MLAs lost out due to poor performance despite winning with a huge margin in the last election.

First-time candidates

In Dantewada, Devati Karma, the widow of the late Mahendra Karma, who was killed in a Maoist ambush, has been replaced by her son Chavindra Mahendra Karma. Ms. Karma had won the seat in a byelection necessitated by the death of BJP MLA Bhima Mandavi.

Mr. Baghel's close associate Girish Dewangan will be contesting for the first time from Rajnandgaon, where the BJP has fielded sitting MLA and three-time former CM Raman Singh.

As chairman of the Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation, his name has cropped up in the Enforcement Directorate's probe into the alleged coal levy scam.

The Congress' first list includes four women. It has named 14 candidates for Scheduled Tribe seats and three for Scheduled Caste seats. Of the 13 general seats, nine candidates are from Other Backward Classes – including three Sahus – and one is a Muslim.

Mahua Moitra accused of 'taking cash to ask questions'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey complained to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Sunday that Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra had allegedly taken bribes from a business house to ask questions in Parliament.

Ms. Moitra denied the allegations, and urged the Speaker to first complete the "probe" into Mr. Dubey's educational qualifications and then hold an investigation into the allegations against her.

Both the MPs fought on X over the matter. He warned that Ms. Moitra would lose her seat.

He cited a letter he received from an advocate and accused her of "breach of privilege, contempt of the house" and a "criminal offence" under Section 120-A of the IPC. He said the advocate's letter provided irrefutable evidence. "There is not an iota of doubt about a criminal conspiracy hatched by Mahua Moitra to protect the interests of a businessman - Shri Darshan Hiranandani - by asking Parliamentary Questions, which is reminiscent of 'Cash for Query' episode of 12 December, 2005," the BJP MP said in the letter.

Ms. Moitra said she welcomed a CBI inquiry into her alleged money laundering right after they finish investigating Adani's offshore money trail, over invoicing and benami accounts. "Adani may use BJP agencies to browbeat competition and buy airports but just try doing it with me," she added.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Thiruvananthapuram Division
E-auction for commercial assets pertaining to Thiruvananthapuram Division
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram Division calls for awarding the contracts for (1) vinyl wrapping advertisement in the exterior of various trains, (2) leasing of SLRs in various trains, (3) vehicle parking at station (4) Installation and operation of ATMs at Railway stations (5) AC waiting Hall (6) Cloakroom, (7) Pay and Use Toilets- Normal, ROMT & BOT model, (8) Audio Visual Display system, (9) display of non-digital boards and (10) display of video wall at stations through e-auctions. (10) Provision of Catering stalls at various stations over TVC division. The following e-auction Catalogues will be opened on various days of October-2023

Sl.No.	Type of contract	Catalogue No.
1	Parcel lease	VPU-06-2023, VPU-07-2023, SLR-33-23, SLR-35-23, SLR34-VP-8-23 & VPU-9-2023
2	Catering	Catering-2-2023 &Catering-3-2023
3	Pay & Use Toilet	PAU-BOT-ROMT-25
4	AC Waiting Room and Cloak room	PAU-CL-AC-26
5	ATM	ATM-03-2023
6	Publicity	ADV-TVC-EFF14, ADV-AVDS-STN-1, ADV-STN-OH-1, ADV-TVC-VW-1 & ADV-TVC-VW-2
7	Vehicle Parking	Parking-23-2023, Parking-25-2023, Parking-26-2023, Parking-27-2023, Parking-28-2023 & Parking-29-2023

The details of trains, compartments, stations, contract period and E-Auction date can be viewed in the website - **www.ireps.gov.in.**
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

Congress's caste calculus to be tested in polls

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi during the CWC meeting in New Delhi on October 9 . SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The four-hour meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) at the All India Congress Committee headquarters on October 9 announced that it was unanimous in making "social justice" the main plank for the 2024 election.

The party's highest decision-making body made three announcements to this effect: a government led by the Congress would conduct a caste census to find the number of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), remove the cap of 50% reservation for OBCs, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) through an Act of Parliament, and finally, offer 33% quota to women lawmakers, including a separate quota for OBC women, at the earliest.

The CWC resolution was a natural outcome of the party's formulation after the Bihar caste survey results were out. Noting that OBCs, SCs and STs together made up 84% of the population, former party chief Rahul Gandhi argued that "rights of a community should be proportional to its population in society".

Senior leader Ramesh Chennithala argued that numbers alone cannot be the only determinant of backwardness, while his colleague, Manish Tewari, advised against removing the 50% cap and quoted B.R. Ambedkar to argue that "equality should be the rule and affirmative action should be the exception".

But the CWC eventually endorsed the line set by Mr. Gandhi and party president Mallikarjun Kharge, during the Special Session of Parliament.

In the Lok Sabha, Mr. Gandhi argued that only three out of a total of 90 Secretaries to the Government of India were from OBCs and they merely handled 5% of India's budget. In a complete U-turn from its earlier position on the women's Bill, Mr. Kharge, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, argued for quota within quota for OBC women.

Both these positions were in sync with regional parties of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc that has always championed the cause of OBCs. By aligning its position with these regional players, the Congress did not allow the women's reservation law to drive a wedge between INDIA partners.

An emphasis on caste could counter the BJP's successful strategy of bringing different castes and disparate interest groups under one large Hindutva umbrella since 2014. The 2017 Assembly election in Gujarat can serve as a pointer. Patidar agitation leader Hardik Patel, Alpesh Thakor of the OSS [OBC, SC, ST] Ekta Manch and Dalit leader Jignesh Mevani formed a rainbow coalition of different caste interests that helped the Congress put up its best performance in decades with 77 seats.

The other assessment in the Congress camp is that the "forward castes" have been consistent in their support of the BJP and the party needs to expand its base among OBCs, SCs, STs and minorities. However, such a strategy could also lead to friction with the regional players as parties such as the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Samajwadi Party, the Janata Dal(U) and others built a base among the same voter segment in the post-Mandal era.

"Caste-census isn't a matter of politics for us, it's about ensuring justice," Mr. Gandhi told reporters. He also dismissed a question on whether the Assembly elections would be a 'litmus test' for their new strategy by suggesting that such tests are "applied in chemistry and not in politics". But, irrespective of his assertion, the Congress' caste calculus is likely to be tested in the electoral field.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
Construction & Maintenance Group
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE E-TENDER
On behalf of President of India, sealed Item rate E-Tenders are invited online from contractors of appropriate class for the following work in NIT by Ground Head CMG, ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58 (Ph:2809 4541/4178)

Name of Work	**Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Central Air conditioning plants, AHU and other AC systems installed at SCC, MOX Campus, Peenya & IDSN campus, Byalalu, ISTRAC, Bengaluru**
E-Tenders Notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/A.C/MAINT/E-Tender- 58/ 2023-24 Dated: 13.10.2023**
Estimated cost put to tender	**Rs. 73.46 Lakhs**
Tender Document details	**E-Tenders**
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**24 (Twenty Four) Months with a provision to extend the contract for a period of one more year with same terms and conditions**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 16.10.2023 to 30.10.2023 till 16.00 hrs.**
Bid clarification	**From 17.10.2023 to 31.10.2023 till 16.00 hrs.**
Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification	**01.11.2023 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Last date & time of receipt of tenders	**02.11.2023 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Due date and time of opening of tenders	**07.11.2023 after 11.00 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 1,46,920.00**

Interested Tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in.** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**
Sd/- Group Head,CMG

INBRIEF

Two flights bring back 471 Indians from conflict-hit Israel

Two flights from Tel Aviv carrying a total of 471 Indians landed in New Delhi on Sunday. One flight was operated by Air India and the other by SpiceJet. A total of four flights have been operated under Operation Ajay. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi on Sunday said the third flight with 197 passengers landed at the Delhi airport in the morning. The fourth flight carrying 274 passengers touched down in the national capital, he said in posts on the microblogging site X and also shared pictures of passengers. Two chartered flights from Tel Aviv, operated by Air India, came with a total of more than 435 passengers on Friday and Saturday. PTI

Borders to have radiation detection equipment

Radiation detection equipment (RDE) will soon be installed at eight land crossing points along India's borders with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal to check the trafficking of radioactive materials for its possible use in making nuclear devices, officials said. The RDE will be installed at the integrated check posts and land ports of Attari (Pakistan border), Petrapole, Agartala, Dawki and Sutarkandi (all on the Bangladesh border), Raxaul and Jogbani (Nepal) and Moreh (Myanmar). The Union government has taken the initiative to install the RDE so that the trafficking of radioactive materials across international borders can be checked. PTI

SC to hear AAP leader's suspension plea today

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea moved by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha, challenging his indefinite suspension from the Rajya Sabha. A Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra is scheduled to hear the plea of Mr. Chadha, who was suspended from Parliament on August 11 for "gross violation of rules, misconduct, defiant attitude and contemptuous conduct", pending a report by the privileges committee. In his plea, the AAP leader has said the power to suspend indefinitely is dangerously open to excesses and abuse. PTI

Remarks against Modi: SC to hear Khera's plea today

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea of Congress leader Pawan Khera challenging the Allahabad High Court's refusal to quash criminal proceedings against him for allegedly making objectionable remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Prashant Kumar Mishra is scheduled to hear the plea. Earlier, the matter was also listed on October 13. On August 17, the High Court dismissed Mr. Khera's plea saying the evidence collected by the investigating officer of the case cannot be evaluated in a petition filed under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for quashing the case. PTI

Centre likely to raise age of retirement of scientists to 65

Aim is to stem the flight of top scientists to universities and IITs; Science Ministry sends note to 14 bodies seeking details of those nearing retirement and financial implication of enhanced tenures

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Science and Technology Ministry is working on a proposal to increase the retirement age of scientists to 65.

Its larger purpose, sources suggest, is to stem the flight of its top senior scientists to universities and the Indian Institutes of Technology, where the retirement age is 65, *The Hindu* has learnt.

At present, scientists in most wings of the government retire at 60, while those working at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) retire at 62.

Retaining talent: Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting scientists of the ISRO in Bengaluru recently. ANI/ PIB

October 6 note

A note by the Ministry issued on October 6 this year says that a "proposal for enhancement of retirement age of scientists in autonomous bodies of science departments/Ministries is under way."

This note, sent to 14 autonomous bodies funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), asks the heads of institutes to furnish the total sanctioned strength of scientists in their AB (autonomous bodies), the number of scientists retiring in the next five years (November 2023 to March 2028), and the "additional financial implication of the enhanced retirement age". *The Hindu* has viewed this note.

Abhay Karandikar, who took charge as Secretary in the Ministry on October 3, said he was "unaware" of the note and declined comment. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the DST come within the MoST. Sources in the Ministry told *The Hindu* that the proposal stemmed from the DBT where, over the years, concerns have been raised that several senior scientists approaching retirement were quitting institutes for careers in academia.

Parity goal

"The aim is to bring parity. Why should our (Ministry-affiliated) scientists be disadvantaged? However, it is still an early-stage proposal and under discussion," a senior scientist, aware of matters, told *The Hindu*. The DBT has reportedly already sent details of eligible scientists for evaluation. Scientists who work in autonomous institutions of the Ministry of Earth Sciences are also likely to come within the ambit of the proposal.

2015 proposal shelved

This is not the first time that the government has mooted raising the retirement age of scientists.

A draft Cabinet note in 2015, led by the Ministry, had said the move would bring parity in service conditions of research scientists working in different arms of the government.

So far, the general trend in the Ministries has been to give scientists nearing retirement, 'extensions' that may increase their tenure by two or up to five years. The Modi government, one scientist said, has done away with such extensions and instead opted for short-term contracts to retain valuable senior employees.

However the 2015 proposal, despite being discussed publicly at the highest levels of government, appears to have been buried.

M.S. Gill, former poll panel chief and Minister, dead

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

M.S. Gill

Former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Manohar Singh Gill, 86, passed away at a south Delhi hospital on Sunday after a brief illness. Mr. Gill served as the Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs and the Minister for Statistics and Programme Implementation in the Manmohan Singh government.

He will be cremated here on Monday. He is survived by his wife and three daughters.

Mr. Gill, a former Indian Administrative Service officer of the Punjab cadre, served as the CEC between December 1996 and June 2001. He, along with G.V.G. Krishnamurty, joined the poll panel when the Election Commission became a multi-member body. Then, the poll panel was headed by T.N. Seshan. Mr. Gill was also a recipient of the Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award.

He is perhaps the first former CEC to have joined politics as he was elected to the Rajya Sabha as a Congress candidate in 2004 and went on to become the Sports Minister in 2008.

"Extremely saddened at the passing away of former Union Minister, Padma Vibhushan, Shri Manohar Singh Gill ji," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on X. "As a valued colleague in the UPA govt and earlier as a civil servant, his contributions to the development of the nation in varied fields like sports, electoral processes and agriculture were long lasting," he added.

Former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa, also expressed their condolences. "He was a great son of Punjab, and his dedication and services to the agriculture sector in the State will always be remembered," Mr. Bajwa said in a post on X.

Kaziranga sanctuary reopens with tribute to British-era officer

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve reopened on Sunday with a literary tribute to a British-era forest officer who rid its name of any hunting connotations.

The 1,300-sq.km reserve, the world's safest address for the one-horned rhinoceros, opens annually for tourists in October.

The plan for a nature and wildlife-specific library at the Centenary Convention Centre in the Kohora area of Kaziranga, could not materialise in 2020 because of COVID outbreak.

Named after Patrick D. Stracey, the library was inaugurated on Sunday.

Stracey, who was born in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada, served as an Indian Forest Service officer in Assam. He played a key role in renaming the Kaziranga Game Sanctuary as a wildlife sanctuary in 1950. He also established the Assam Forest School, a training institute catering to the northeastern region.

Assam Ministers Atul Bora and Chandramohan Patowari at Kaziranga. RITU RAJ KONWAR

"The PD Stracey Library offers readers books and magazines on the world of nature apart from merchandise to take memories of Kaziranga home. The initiative is a tribute to a legendary forest officer," Kaziranga's field director Sonali Ghosh said.

Railways develops anti-freeze flushes and fuel tanks for journeys in J&K

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The process of linking Kashmir to Kanniyakumari, through the new Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, poses a unique challenge to the Railways in maintaining water and fuel in liquid form in sub-zero temperatures during the winters.

To circumvent the problem of water freezing in toilets and fuel tanks, engineers at the Rail Coach Factory (RCF) in Kapurthala have designed and implemented indigenous innovations.

While the LHB coach design is prominently used by the Railways, it did not have temperature control systems. In winter, temperatures in the J&K region plummet to minus-eight to minus-12 degrees Celsius. "There is a problem if the water freezes in the tanks. The flushes and the toilets won't work as the water won't get circulated. There will be no supply of water in the taps. Another major challenge is that if the water tank is full, there is a hazard that it will develop cracks and burst, as ice has the tendency to expand," Akhilesh Mishra, Chief Design Engineer, RCF, said.

Melting distances: The Chenab bridge is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar- Baramulla Railway Link project. PTI

Mr. Mishra said that the RCF had designed double-walled composite insulated water tanks of capacities ranging between 450 litres and 685 litres.

The water tank mimics thermoplastic bottles with two walls and an insulation layer of foam in the middle, which traps the air. "This will maintain water in liquid form in sub-zero conditions from 16 to 20 hours. The water may remain cold but it won't freeze," Mr. Mishra said.

In another innovation, the RCF has borrowed technology from the defence services to tackle the problem of freezing water in the supply pipelines. "We are using heated pipes with a distributed heating system covered by insulation. The water will remain cold at five to eight degrees Celsius in liquid form," Mr. Mishra said.

To contain energy loss, geysers will be deployed at the point of use in toilets, where only as much water as is needed by the users will be heated. A similar technology is being deployed in the fuel tanks for locomotives by the RCF.

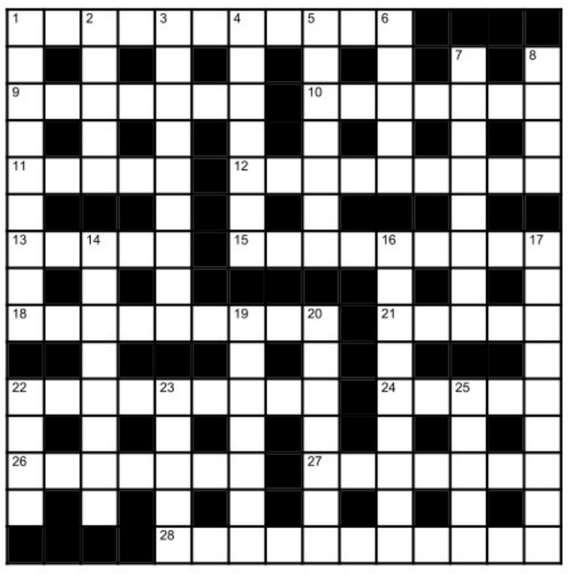
The 111-km-long railway stretch from Katra in Jammu to Banihal in Kashmir is slated to be functional before March next year, when the national elections are due.

TH CROSSWORD + 13996

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 On return, Tom tailed showy woman relative (11)
9 A fool in a port city (7)
10 See, Tally is designed with commitment (7)
11 Pertaining to a place, one's genuine (5)
12 Like Margaret is called Peg (9)
13 Tales about unit of weight (5)
15 Effeminate son is at school providing international education (9)
18 Tax collectors should be bizarre enemies to collect ten cents (9)
21 Beat the rot, be detailed (5)
22 Recurring theme is to limit vote equivocally (9)
24 Being more unwell, executor is starting late (5)
26 Bread with ham, uneven pickings of trout and some zucchini toasted (7)
27 Expert marksman is no more on lookout (7)
28 Composition by famous music director - 'Gentleman', line missing in remix (11)

Down

1 Assurance certification collected by receiver (9)
2 Mendicant resting hiding in a cave (5)
3 Fighters with outstanding league records (9)
4 Plants found at thorp in estate limits (7)
5 Chisel Edgar primarily used to make spiral shapes (7)
6 Fabric is rough and yellowish, opaque, natural at origin (5)
7 Premium brew with a dash of lime is more highly desirable (8)
8 English composer is at empty road (4)
14 Pregnant nurse, one in Berlin entering CT examination first (8)
16 Certain IT building complex... (9)
17 ...brand meet in trouble leading to delay (9)
19 Say, broker's mother is carrying child (7)
20 Eva in North Dakota with one person from another state (7)
22 Young animal found in pound's carrying a mite on its head (4)
23 As per sources millionaire offers outsiders lumpsum allowances and money (5)
25 Master of deceit and extremes of guile (5)

SUDOKU

	8	6						3
		4		8	6	9		5
				5				
9	1			2		6	8	
	7	8		1			3	9
				9				
3		2	4	6		8		
8						1	5	

No.SS5950 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	8	1	6	7	2	3	9
7	6	1	3	2	9	4	8	5
2	9	3	8	4	5	6	7	1
8	7	9	2	5	1	3	6	4
3	1	4	6	7	8	9	5	2
6	5	2	4	9	3	7	1	8
1	8	6	9	3	4	5	2	7
4	3	5	7	1	2	8	9	6
9	2	7	5	8	6	1	4	3

FAITH

Overcoming inner demons

The nine nights of Navaratri are the time to look inward, fight the latent adharma in us by not just taking a cue from Ambal, who vanquishes evil during this period, but also to seek Her blessings, Suchithra Balasubramanian said in a discourse.

The days of preluding Navaratri prepare one for searing introspection as the entire month of Purattasi is vibrant with bhakti. Devotees focus on Govindha and voluntarily follow austerities, especially on Saturdays. Navaratri is the crowning jewel – it is the pathway to free oneself of evil. Praying to Ambal will empower one to attain that goal.

Traditionally, the first three days are given to Durga, the Dukkha Nivarini; next three are for Lakshmi, the one who showers wealth; and the last three days are dedicated to Saraswati, so that one may gain knowledge and achieve eminence in all arts and crafts.

Mahishasuramardhini, the vanquisher of evil is invoked on the tenth day, which is also celebrated as Vijaya Dasami, a day for victorious beginnings.

Culturally, Navaratri highlights how one should live in society. There is no room for the egoistical 'I' in Sanatana Dharma. It is always about 'us', 'we'. The inclusiveness is constantly reiterated by the phrase, 'Lokah samastah sukhino bhavantu', wherein we pray for the well-being of all.

QUITO

Ecuador goes to the polls amid drug war, political assassinations

AP

Ecuadorans started voting for a new President in the middle of a drug war and political assassinations that cut short the bid of a popular candidate. The finalists — lawyer Luisa Gonzalez, 45, and banana empire heir Daniel Noboa, 35 — campaigned in bullet-proof vests as a climate of fear gripped the once-peaceful country. AFP

DHAKA

Two Bangladesh rights activists released as court grants them bail

REUTERS

Bangladesh released two human rights activists on bail, after they challenged their two-year sentences that critics say are part of a crackdown ahead of elections. Adilur Rahman Khan and Nasiruddin Elan had worked to document thousands of alleged extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances of Opposition activists. AFP

WARSAW

Poland votes in election that can have a bearing on EU and Ukraine

REUTERS

Poles voted in parliamentary elections that will set the country's future ties with the EU and neighbouring Ukraine. Opinion polls indicate the nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) party will get the most votes but may struggle to build a governing coalition, giving a chance to the Opposition led by former EU chief Donald Tusk.AFP

TEHRAN

Prominent Iranian film director Dariush Mehrjui stabbed to death

AFP

One of Iran's most prominent film-makers, Dariush Mehrjui, was stabbed to death on Saturday evening alongside his wife at their home near Tehran. A provincial chief justice said Mehrjui and his wife, Vahideh Mohammadifar, "were killed by multiple stab wounds to the neck," the judiciary's Mizan Online website said. AFP

U.S. warns of the prospect of Iran getting engaged in war

Washington fears the opening up of a new battlefront near Israel's border with Lebanon; White House says Biden has stationed an aircraft carrier in eastern Mediterranean and in the Gulf

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The U.S. said on Sunday it fears an escalation of the war between Israel and Hamas and the prospect of Iran getting directly involved.

Speaking on CBS, White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan cited the possibility of a new battle front on the Israel-Lebanon border and added, "We can't rule out that Iran would choose to get directly engaged some way. We have to prepare for every possible contingency."

Iran is a long-time backer of the militant group Hamas and of Hezbollah in Lebanon, providing them funding and weapons.

Final abode: The bodies of a family displaced from northern Gaza, being taken for burial in a lorry on Sunday. AFP

"That is a risk and that's a risk that we have been mindful of since the start," Mr. Sullivan said of the prospect of Iran getting involved in the war, which was triggered by the Hamas attack on southern Israel from Gaza last weekend.

"It's why the President moves so rapidly to get an aircraft carrier into the eastern Mediterranean, to get aircraft into the Gulf, because he sent a very clear message to any state or any actor that would seek to exploit this situation," Mr. Sullivan added.

Aircraft carrier

Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin announced the deployment of the second aircraft carrier on Saturday "to deter hostile actions against Israel or any efforts toward widening this war following Hamas's attack."

In the eastern Mediterranean, the carrier *USS Eisenhower* and its accompanying ships will join the *USS Gerald R. Ford*, which was dispatched after the Hamas attack on October 7.

Blinken raises Hamas issue with Saudi leader during West Asia tour

Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called for pressure on Hamas during a meeting on Sunday with the de facto leader of Saudi Arabia, which has warming ties with Israel but has put normalisation on hold.

The top U.S. diplomat met for nearly an hour with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the royal's farm residence in the Riyadh area, a U.S. official said.

"Very productive," Mr. Blinken said when asked about the meeting after returning to his hotel.

Mr. Blinken "highlighted the U.S.'s unwavering focus on halting terrorist attacks by Hamas, securing the release of all hostages and preventing the conflict from spreading," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said.

Pacification bid: Antony Blinken, left, meets with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman in Riyadh on Sunday. REUTERS

"The two affirmed their shared commitment to protecting civilians and to advancing stability across the Middle East and beyond," Mr. Miller said.

Prince Mohammed highlighted Riyadh's diplomatic outreach "to calm the situation", the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported, an effort that has involved calls to regional leaders including Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

He also reiterated the Gulf kingdom's condemnation of attacks on civilians and "vital interests that affect their daily lives", while stressing the need for Palestinians to "obtain their legitimate rights and achieve just and lasting peace", SPA said.

Mr. Blinken has been touring the region after Hamas fighters infiltrated Israel from the blockaded Gaza Strip on October 7 and killed 1,300 people, mostly civilians, and took about 150 hostages.

Before the violence, the Saudi crown prince had spoken of progress in U.S.-led diplomacy to normalise relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Saudi Arabia has put the process on hold after the violence, and Mr. Blinken has said that disrupting Saudi-Israel normalisation efforts may have partly motivated the Hamas attack.

Pakistan, China to ink deals under CPEC during Kakar's visit

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

China and Pakistan will ink significant agreements regarding motorways and highways during caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul haq Kakar's four-day visit to Beijing starting on Monday, according to a media report on October 15.

The agreements would be signed under the $60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) programme, *Dawn* newspaper reported.

BRF meet

Mr. Kakar would travel to Beijing on October 16 to participate in the 'Third Belt and Road Forum (BRF)

A Highway Research and Training Centre in Pakistan built with China's assistance is on the cards

for International Cooperation' from October 17 to 18.

A significant Memorandum of Understanding scheduled to be signed is related to the establishment of a modern Highway Research and Training Centre (HRTC) with China's assistance, the PM's office said. The project will prominently take centre stage during the Prime Minister's discussion with the Chinese authorities, it added.

Manning the monument

French police patrol the Trocadero Square near the Eiffel Tower in Paris on Sunday as the French government put the nation on its highest state of alert following a deadly knife attack in northern France earlier this week. REUTERS

Afghans flee western region after fresh earthquake kills two and injures 154

Agence France-Presse
HERAT

A magnitude 6.3 earthquake killed two persons in western Afghanistan on Sunday, with damaged prisons evacuated and residents fleeing a region where tremors have claimed at least 1,000 lives this past week.

Since October 7, a series of potent earthquakes have jolted Herat province, levelling whole villages, burying families and leaving thousands homeless as winter approaches.

In rural Injil district, near the epicentre of Sunday's quake, 64-year-old Rustam narrowly escaped when tremors destroyed the remnants of his home and buried belongings he was trying to salvage at around 8:00 a.m.

"We heard a very terrible and scary sound," he said.

'Critical situation'

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said two new fatalities and 154 injuries were registered at Herat Regional Hospital, where patients were being ferried on stretchers and treated outside under gazebos.

"The situation is very critical," MSF's Afghanistan Programme Head Yahya Kalilah told AFP. "In terms of psychology, people are panicked and traumatised." "People are not feeling safe. I will assure you 100%, no one will sleep in their house."

The latest quake's epicentre was 33 kilometres northwest of the provincial capital Herat city and was followed by aftershocks of magnitudes 5.4, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

Officials said more than 528 prisoners had been released from Herat province and neighbouring Badghis province because jails "were in danger of collapsing" from quake damage.

Many Herat city residents have fled due to the threat of aftershocks.

Oxford University seismologist Zakeria Shnizai warned of further tremors in the days to come.

"Aftershocks occur due to the readjustment of rocks and faults that slipped during the main earthquake," he said.

Azerbaijan President raises national flag in Karabakh capital

Agence France-Presse
BAKU

President Ilham Aliyev raised Azerbaijan's flag in the main city of Nagorno-Karabakh on Sunday, cementing Baku's conquest of the region after last month's lightening offensive that led to an exodus of ethnic Armenians.

It was Mr. Aliyev's first visit to the city – which Azerbaijan calls Khankendi and Armenia calls Stepanakert – since it fell to Armenian separatists in the early 1990s.

Baku published images of Mr. Aliyev touring Karabakh after his forces swept through the mountainous region in a 24-hours September offensive that ended three decades of Armenian separatist rule.

"President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has raised the National Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the city of Khankendi and delivered a speech," Mr. Aliyev's office said in a statement.

The vast majority of the estimated 1,20,000 ethnic Armenians that had been living in the territory have since fled to Armenia.

Images of Karabakh's main city after the Azerbaijani offensive showed a ghost town.

Pending promise

Mr. Aliyev's trip came exactly 20 years since he became President of Azerbaijan. Throughout his authoritarian rule he has vowed to bring Karabakh back under Azerbaijani control.

The 61-year-old posed in front of mountains and water, holding pomegranates – a fruit associated with the region – in one of the photographs.

Finishing move: President Ilham Aliyev kneels down in front of the national flag of Azerbaijan raised in the town of Khojaly. AFP

Mr. Aliyev's visit came as Pope Francis on Sunday called for the protection of Karabakh's ancient Christian Armenian monasteries and churches.

The Catholic leader spoke after his traditional Angelus prayer in Saint Peter's Square in Rome:

"Beyond the humanitarian situation of the displaced people, which is serious, I would like to appeal for the protection of the monasteries and places of worship in the region."

He called on the new authorities and "all inhabitants" to respect the places of worship "in an expression of faith and a sign of a fraternity that allows us to live together in our differences."

'Ethnic cleansing'

Armenia has accused Azerbaijan of "ethnic cleansing" in Karabakh, which Baku denies.

Mr. Aliyev's trip came after he met with Russian leader Vladimir Putin at a meeting of ex-Soviet leaders in Kyrgyzstan, which Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan did not attend.

While Mr. Aliyev did not go to a European summit for talks with Pashinyan earlier this month, his office has said that he intends to travel for Brussels talks with the Armenian leader.

History of dispute

Mr. Aliyev became President of Azerbaijan in 2003, succeeding his father Heydar Aliyev.

Azerbaijan and Armenia have been locked in a dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh since the dying days of the Soviet Union.

The mountainous region of Nagorno-Karabakh was populated mainly by Armenians and became part of Azerbaijan under Soviet rule, in the years following the fall of the Russian Empire in 1917. The neighbours went to war twice over the territory: in the 1990s and in 2020.

Latest blow: Injured people receive treatment after a powerful earthquake in Herat province in western Afghanistan on Sunday. AP

ASKUS

N. Sree Kanth

Q I have received salary for FY 2022-2023 up to August 2022. I have not received salary from September 2022 - March 2023. It is expected that I am going to receive it before end of the current year 2023-2024. So, while filing I-T returns for FY 2023-2024 AY 2024-2025, can I fill 10E form for tax relief? I believe that 10E form is for salary arrears and not for salary as whole.
Secondly, can I avail of exemption of income under Section 80QQB only in excess of ₹1,50,000 and up to ₹3,00,000; for example, if my royalty income is ₹70,000, no exemption is allowed, will I have to pay tax?
Thirdly, can I avail deduction of ₹1,50,000 under Section 80C and ₹1,50,000 under Section 80CCD (2) in the same financial year?
KAVITA

A Relief under Section 89(1) can be claimed by filing Form 10E only when you receive salaries/pension in arrears.
In this case, due to lack of full information about the disbursal of salary by your employer, it is advisable to obtain Form 16 from your employer for each of the year you are referring to and act accordingly.
As per Section 80QQB of the Income Tax Act, 1961, a deduction of ₹3 lakh or the actual amount of royalty received, whichever is lesser, can be claimed.
However, it is to be ensured that all other criteria and additional filing of prescribed forms as provided for claiming the said deduction are met with.
It is to be noted that Section 80CCE provides for the overall deduction limit of ₹1,50,000 which covers aggregate deductions claimed under Sections 80C, 80CCC and 80CCD(1).
An amount of up to ₹50,000 voluntarily contributed under Section 80CCD (1B) can be claimed over and above the ₹1,50,000 provided under Section 80CCE.
Further, in order to claim deduction under Section 80CCD(2), the contribution to NPS is to be directly done on your behalf by your employer where the same does not exceed 14% (in case of central or State government employers) and 10% (in the case of other employers) of the salary (that is, basic plus DA).
Contributions under Section 80CCD(2) are not covered under the overall limits prescribed under Section 80CCE.

Q I am a State government employee and my NPS contribution during FY22-23 was ₹1,18,000. In addition to this, I paid life insurance premium (LIC) of ₹53,000 during the same period.
Can I show my NPS contribution split as ₹97,000 + ₹21,000 so that I can show ₹97,000 (as 80CCD 1) along with LIC premium of ₹53,000 for maximum benefit under section 80c and show remaining ₹21,000 under 80CCD 1B so that I can get an extra benefit or should I always show NPS amount as total?
AJIN KRISHNAN K

A Sections 80CCD(1) and 80CCD (2) cover NPS contributions done directly from your salary by the employer/government as your contribution and employer contribution, respectively.
It is to be noted that the above sub-sections are covered under Section 80CCE, which provides for the overall deduction limit of ₹1,50,000 under Sections 80C, 80CCC and 80CCD. Only when NPS is voluntarily contributed can you avail the extra ₹50,000 as provided in Section 80CCD(1B).
The LIC premium paid by you is assumed to be done for yourself or your spouse or your dependent children and satisfies other conditions prescribed in Section 80C, which would enable you to avail of deduction under Section 80C with regard to life insurance premia.
Thereby, you may look into the split up of the NPS contributions done by you and your employer from your salary and voluntarily and avail the deductions accordingly under Section 80CCD and Section 80C with regard to life insurance premia read with overall limits prescribed by Section 80CCE and Section 80CCD (1B).
(The adviser is partner, GSS Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Higher ground: There is a steep outperformance by mid-cap and small-cap funds over the large-cap space. There have been very strong inflows into mid and small-cap funds in June-August even as categories such as large cap and focused saw net outflows. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Should you worry about mid, small-cap funds now?

While some small-cap funds have shut off lump sum investments and limited SIP inflows, the Israel-Palestine conflict has raised anxiety over possible fallouts of a geopolitical tension point

MARKET WATCH

Bhavana Acharya

Getting the jitters about mid and small-cap funds now is perfectly normal, whether it is because of their rapid rally or since the headlines are urging caution. After all, the Nifty Smallcap 250 and the Nifty Midcap 150 have soared 30% and 27% in the year-to-date; the Nifty 50's 9% return is a pale comparison. So, should you heed those concerns, make hay while the sun shines, and get out of mid and small-caps?

Mounting concerns

The concern over the mid and small-cap space has been mounting for multiple reasons. There is steep outperformance by the two segments over the large-cap space. The past three months have seen a flat Nifty 50, but the Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices have yet rolled on with 12% and 14% gains.

This has also sent valuation multiples of stocks in these market cap segments well ahead, leaving less room for further rally.

There have been very strong inflows into mid and small-cap funds in June-August even as categories such as large-cap and focused saw net outflows. Some small-cap funds have themselves shut off lump sum investments and limited SIP inflows. And now, there is a new Israel-Palestine conflict that has caused fresh worries over crude oil, global inflation and other possible fallouts of yet another geopolitical tension point.

The mid and small-cap indices fell harder than the Nifty 50 at the time of writing this article, after news of the geopolitical tension. All these issues raise the dilemma of whether to exit mid and small-cap space.

Essential component

It's important to look at the mid and small-cap segments in terms of potential and from a portfolio perspective. In this light, the mid and small-cap space is an essential component of your mutual fund portfolio for three reasons.

One, the large-cap space has capped return potential and returns may not be at the level of yore. The Nifty 50 index has about 61% weight in just three sectors – financials, IT, and FMCG.

All three are not high-growth sectors and growth is more or less linked to nominal GDP growth rates. Other index components are also conglomerates or very large enterprises that don't scream high growth, either. Two, the high sector concentration in this largecap space means that the next set of opportunities as the economy grows and broadens belongs to sectors outside the index – and so, you need to invest beyond it to access those.

There are several such pockets of growth. The rise in manufacturing through government initiatives is an example.

> If your allocation to mid and small-cap funds is high, it is time to bring it down to safer levels by opting for simple rebalancing

Another lies in R&D and manufacturing in the pharmaceutical, agriculture and chemicals spaces. These are also spurred by the China+1 shift. Yet another example is the growth in discretionary consumption and changing lifestyle habits.

All these opportunities can be found in companies in the lower rung of market capitalisations. This apart, a more conducive market environment can bring in hitherto unavailable opportunities through IPOs.

Finally, the Indian market is made up of several regional markets, where tastes differ, markets differ and competition differs. These specific opportunities, too, are found more in mid-and-small caps.

For example, sectors such as banks and NBFCs, jewellery, fashion, hospitals, food, and so on have region-dominant players. Nor does the regional focus cap growth potential, given the size of these micro-markets.

Therefore, moving down the market-cap curve is needed to capture up-and-coming and new sectors as the economy expands and taps different markets. All this also bodes well for companies to scale up the value chain, helping them graduate from small to mid to large caps.

Need for prudence

The concern with mid-caps and small-caps is that falls are swift, steep, and take longer to recover than the large-cap basket. To offer some perspective, the Nifty's fall from its 2020 high to the COVID low was about 38%. The Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices had already corrected in 2019, after hitting a peak in 2018. From their 2018 peak, the two indices dropped about 44% and 61%. Not just that, the Nifty's post-COVID rally was sharper than the small-cap index; it's only over the past year that small-caps have well and truly caught up. What is really needed in the mid and small-cap market segment is prudence.

If your allocation to mid and small-cap funds is high, well, it certainly is time to be afraid and bring it down to safer levels by doing a simple rebalancing and bringing allocation back to your initial level.

If your allocations are within reason, there's really no need for anything other than letting your SIPs continue.

Now is also not the time to be making lump sum investments in these funds. The SIP route will let you both maintain your allocation to high-returning market segments and will let a market fall, if it comes, benefit you.

(The writer is Co-founder, PrimeInvestor.in)

Parental control

THINKINVESTOR

Your parents should manage the login and password to the bank accounts linked to your SIPs. That way, you will not be tempted to stop an SIP or withdraw an FD to fund impulsive purchases

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

If you are a young professional and single, then the following discussion is relevant for you. In this article, we discuss why you should take your own investment decisions with appropriate guidance from your parents.

Generation gap?

Your parents care about your financial health. But the investments that worked for them may not necessarily be optimal for you. Your parents may have accumulated their wealth through real estate investments, especially land. Should you?

For one, your work may require you to relocate from one city to another or to a different country. Investing in financial assets may be easier to manage than buying physical assets such as gold and real estate. For another, real estate prices have increased exponentially over the years. It is moot if you can earn similar returns as your parents did.

Importantly, your goals may be different from that of your parents. Your parents would have saved to buy a house, fund your college education, and provide for their post-retirement lifestyle. You may want to take a short break from professional life and travel around the world, a trend that is more common now than in the past. Such lifestyle changes may need different investment products and processes.

Then, the risk associated with earnings is greater today than in the past. This leads to two important requirements. One, you need more liquidity than your parents did during their early career. This is to enable you to sustain your lifestyle in the event of temporary loss of income.

This is relevant because a healthy business can face difficulty because of disruptive technologies, exposing your income to greater risk. And two, the risk associated with your investment capital must balance your income risk. That means your investment capital must have stable-income products that can be liquidated without much loss of nominal value.

The above discussion is not to suggest that your parents should not manage your investments. Rather, it is to nudge you into taking an active part in creating your investment portfolio. From a behavioural perspective, it would be optimal if you make the investment choices and let your parents control your investments.

That is, your parents should manage the login and password to your investments and the bank accounts linked to your systematic investment plans (SIPs). That way, you will not be tempted to stop an SIP or withdraw a fixed deposit to fund short-term impulsive purchases.

(The writer offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.75	8.00	7.25
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.50	7.15	7.10
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.20	8.00	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.50	6.00	6.75	6.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	8.51	7.50	8.00	8.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.50	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.60	6.85	8.60	8.25
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	7.20	7.20
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.10	6.70	7.10	7.00
Bandhan Bank	7.85	7.25	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	7.00	6.75	6.50	6.25
CSB Bank	7.35	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	6.25	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	7.90	7.15	7.60	7.40
Federal Bank	7.30	6.80	6.60	6.60
HDFC Bank	7.20	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.10	6.70	7.00	7.00
Karnataka Bank	7.25	6.95	6.50	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.50	7.00	7.00	6.50
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.25	7.10	6.50	6.20
Nainital Bank	7.05	6.70	6.25	5.75
RBL Bank	7.80	7.00	7.10	7.10
SBM Bank India	7.75	7.05	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	7.20	6.60	6.50	6.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.00	7.00	6.50	6.50
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.25	6.75	7.25	6.50
Bank of Maharashtra	7.00	6.35	6.00	5.75
Canara Bank	7.25	6.90	6.80	6.70
Central Bank of India	7.15	6.75	6.50	6.25
Indian Bank	7.25	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.25	6.50	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.75	7.00	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.40	6.40	6.00	6.00
State Bank of India	7.10	6.80	6.50	6.50
UCO Bank	7.05	6.50	6.30	6.20
Union Bank of India	7.00	6.30	6.50	6.70
Foreign Banks				
Deutsche Bank	8.00	7.00	8.00	7.50
HSBC Bank	7.25	4.00	7.00	6.00
Standard Chartered Bank	7.50	7.15	7.10	6.75

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.40-10.15	8.40-10.05	8.40-10.05
Bank of Baroda	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.90
Union Bank of India	8.40-10.80	8.40-10.95	8.40-10.95
Punjab National Bank	8.55-10.25	8.50-10.15	8.50-10.15
Bank of India	8.50-10.75	8.50-10.75	8.50-10.75
Canara Bank	8.65-11.25	8.65-11.25	8.55-11.15
UCO Bank	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30
Bank of Maharashtra	8.50-11.15	8.50-11.15	8.50-11.15
Punjab and Sind Bank*	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00
Indian Overseas Bank	8.85*	8.85*	8.85*
Central Bank of India	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.70*	8.70*	8.70*
ICICI Bank	9.00-9.80	9.00-9.95	9.00-10.05
Axis Bank	9.00-13.30	9.00-13.30	9.00-9.40
HSBC Bank	8.45*	8.45*	8.45*
South Indian Bank	9.57-10.97	9.57-10.77	9.57-11.42
Karur Vysya Bank	9.23-10.73	9.23-10.73	9.23-10.73

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Karnataka Bank	8.75-10.43	8.75-10.43	8.75-10.43
Federal Bank	8.80*	8.80*	8.80*
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	9.45-9.95	9.45-9.95	9.45-9.95
Bandhan Bank	9.15-15.00	9.15-13.32	9.15-13.32
RBL Bank	9.15-11.55	9.10-11.30	9.10-11.30
CSB Bank	0.00-0.00	0.00-0.00	0.00-0.00
HDFC Bank Ltd.	8.50 - 10.20	8.50 - 10.20	8.50 - 10.20
City Union Bank	12.25 - 14.00	12.75 - 14.50	13.25 - 14.75
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.50-10.35	8.50-10.55	8.50-10.75
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.45*	8.45*	8.45*
Tata Capital	8.70*	8.70*	8.70*
PNB Housing Finance	8.50-14.50	8.50-11.45	8.50-11.45
GIC Housing Finance	8.80*	8.80*	8.80*
Repco Home Finance	9.50*	9.50*	9.50*
Indiabulls Housing	8.75*	8.75*	8.75*
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55*	8.55*	8.55*

*Onwards
Rates as on October 10
Source:Paisabazaar.com

RECOGNITION

Rahul wins 'best fielder' gold medal for his 'keeping exhibit

India fielding coach T. Dilip gave the best fielding award to K.L. Rahul after India's win over Pakistan. "One skill which gets ignored is wicketkeeping, we expect to do the job, but some of the things we spoke about coming to the wicket and coming to the stumps to collect that throws... I think overall Rahul was fantastic," he said.

BOOST FOR AFGHANS

This win will bring smiles on the faces of people back home: Trott

Coach Jonathan Trott spoke about the importance of Afghanistan's World Cup win over England. "The players know this win will bring smiles on the faces of the people back home. This win will encourage boys and girls in Afghanistan to pick up a cricket bat or ball," said Trott. Recently, Afghanistan was hit by an earthquake.

BIG SETBACK

Not performing at the level we want to: England skipper Buttler

England captain Jos Buttler feels the team is yet to play to its potential in the World Cup. "We are really disappointed. We were outplayed today. We are not performing at the level we want to. It is a big setback obviously. Before the tournament, we had a different idea about how things would pan out in the first three games."

FUN TIME

NZ players meet school students in Chennai under UNICEF initiative

Nearly 50 students from the Greater Chennai Corporation schools had a fun session of cricket with New Zealand cricketers at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday. Latham, Sodhi, Chapman, Boult, Ravindra, Mitchell and Southee enthusiastically took part in the ICC-UNICEF 'Cricket 4 Good' clinic.

Gritty Afghanistan leaves England shell-shocked

The spin trio of Mujeeb, Rashid and Nabi accounts for eight wickets as the team scripts the biggest upset of this edition; the result pushes Australia to the bottom of the table

ODI WORLD CUP

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

In the past, Afghanistan has let teams like India and Pakistan off the hook in the World Cup. The gritty fighters, with a display of fearless trading of wickets for quick runs, have often paid the price for their inexperience in dealing with the 'big' moments of the game.

Finally on Sunday, the 'hunted' became the hunter.

The Afghans got their act right at the Arun Jaitley Stadium to pull off the biggest upset of the World Cup by stunning defending champion England.

Surprisingly asked to bat, Afghanistan posted 284 – its second highest in the World Cup – and then delivered repeated blows on an unsuspecting England to script a historic 69-run victory.

This ended Afghanistan's 14-match losing streak in the World Cup since 2015.

Coincidentally, the result left both teams with a one-win-two-loss record and pushed Australia to the bottom of the points table.

It took time for the Englishmen to realise what hit them. If they thought they could cruise to their target much like India did on Wednesday, they were in for a rude shock.

After seamer Fazal Farooqi trapped Jonny Bairstow leg-before, the spin trio of Mujeeb ur Rahman, Mohammad Nabi and Rashid Khan shared eight wickets.

Joe Root played the wrong line while the in-form Dawid Malan chipped to short extra-cover. Harry Brook, who kept alive the fast-fading English hopes, watched helplessly as Jos Buttler was bowled, Liam Livingstone fell leg-before, Sam Curran offered a low catch to the lone slip fielder and Chris Woakes was castled.

Defying gravity, defying the odds: Even as Mujeeb had defending champion England in a tangle, Naveen cleaned up Buttler. Gurbaz's electrifying knock had earlier powered Afghanistan. R.V. MOORTHY

Rashid celebrates the win over England. R.V. MOORTHY

Afghanistan tastes its second success in World Cups

Lalith Kalidas
CHENNAI

Afghanistan (284) registered its second-highest ODI World Cup total, surpassing the 272 it scored against India in its previous game.

Afghanistan's best (288) came against the West Indies in the 2019 edition.

The Afghans recorded their first win over the Englishmen in six meetings across formats.

It was the third ODI clash between Afghanistan and England, having previously met only in World Cups in 2015 and 2019 when England won comprehensively.

It was Afghanistan's second win in the World Cup in 18 games. The maiden victory was against Scotland in its third match during the 2015 campaign.

Only the Netherlands (9.09%) has a lower win percentage than Afghanistan at the World Cup (11.11; minimum 15 matches played).

England's defeat also made it the first team to lose at least one World Cup match to all the remaining 11 Test-playing nations.

Mohammad Nabi (15) overtook Dawlat Zadran (14) to become Afghanistan's leading wicket-taker in the ODI World Cup.

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
India	3	3	0	6	1.821
New Zealand	3	3	0	6	1.604
South Africa	2	2	0	4	2.360
Pakistan	3	2	1	4	-0.137
England	3	1	2	2	-0.084
Afghanistan	3	1	2	2	-0.652
Bangladesh	3	1	2	2	-0.699
Sri Lanka	2	0	2	0	-1.161
Netherlands	2	0	2	0	-1.800
Australia	2	0	2	0	-1.846

Next assignment

Afghanistan: October 18 vs. **New Zealand,** Chennai, 2 p.m.

England: October 21 vs. **South Africa,** Mumbai, 2 p.m.

Lone hand

Brook, after playing a lone hand with a 61-ball 66, became Mujeeb's third victim with the wicketkeeper completing the dismissal.

The last two wickets took the score from 169 to 215 by using the long-handle effectively before falling to Rashid Khan.

Earlier, relying on the experience of playing India here four nights back, Afghanistan posted what turned out to be a match-winning total.

England was left off-balance with the contrasting approach of Afghan openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran.

Gurbaz dominated the 114-run stand by contributing 75 as Zadran became Adil Rashid's first of the three victims.

The stumping of newman Rahmat Shah and the run-out of Gurbaz off successive deliveries brought England back in the game.

But Ikram Alikhil's fighting 58 and retrieving stands of 43 with Rashid and 44 with Mujeeb ensured Afghanistan improved over its tally of 272 for eight scored against India but fell short of its best of 288, which came against West Indies in 2019.

SCOREBOARD

AFGHANISTAN

Rahmanullah Gurbaz run out 80 *(57b, 8x4, 4x6)*, Ibrahim Zadran c Root b Adil Rashid 28 *(48b, 3x4)*, Rahmat Shah st. Buttler b Adil Rashid 3 *(8b)*, Hashmatullah Shahidi b Root 14 *(36b)*, Azmatullah Omarzai c Woakes b Livingstone 19 *(24b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Ikram Alikhil c Curran b Topley 58 *(66b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Mohammad Nabi c Root b Wood 9 *(15b, 1x4)*, Rashid Khan c Root b Adil Rashid 23 *(22b, 3x4)*, Mujeeb Ur Rahman c Root b Wood 28 *(16b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Naveen-ul-Haq run out 5 *(6b, 1x4)*, Fazalhaq Farooqi (not out) 2 *(4b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-11, nb-3): 15; Total (in 49.5 overs): 284.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-114 (Ibrahim, 16.4), 2-122 (Rahmat, 18.4), 3-122 (Rahmanullah, 18.5), 4-152 (Omarzai, 25.6), 5-174 (Hashmatullah, 32.1), 6-190 (Nabi, 36.1), 7-233 (Rashid, 44.1), 8-277 (Alikhil, 47.6), 9-277 (Mujeeb, 48.1).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Woakes 4-0-41-0, Topley 8.5-1-52-1, Curran 4-0-46-0, Adil Rashid 10-1-42-3, Wood 9-0-50-2, Livingstone 10-0-33-1, Root 4-0-19-1.

ENGLAND

Jonny Bairstow lbw b Farooqi 2 *(4b)*, Dawid Malan c Ibrahim b Nabi 32 *(39b, 4x4)*, Joe Root b Mujeeb 11 *(17b, 2x4)*, Harry Brook c Alikhil b Mujeeb 66 *(61b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Jos Buttler b Naveen 9 *(18b, 1x4)*, Liam Livingstone lbw b Rashid 10 *(14b, 1x4)*, Sam Curran c Rahmat b Nabi 10 *(23b)*, Chris Woakes b Mujeeb 9 *(26b, 1x4)*, Adil Rashid c Nabi b Rashid 20 *(13b, 2x4)*, Mark Wood b Rashid 18 *(22b, 3x4)*, Reece Topley (not out) 15 *(7b, 3x4)*; Extras (lb-4, w-8, nb-1): 13; Total (in 40.3 overs): 215.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-3 (Bairstow, 1.1), 2-33 (Root, 6.5), 3-68 (Malan, 12.4), 4-91 (Buttler, 17.2), 5-117 (Livingstone, 20.4), 6-138 (Curran, 27.1), 7-160 (Woakes, 32.6), 8-169 (Brook, 34.2), 9-198 (Rashid, 38.4).

AFGHANISTAN BOWLING

Mujeeb 10-1-51-3, Farooqi 7-0-50-1, Naveen 6-1-44-1, Nabi 6-0-16-2, Rashid 9.3-1-37-3, Omarzai 2-0-13-0.

Toss: England.
PoM: Mujeeb.
Afghanistan won by 69 runs.

Life has come a full circle for Rohit

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
AHMEDABAD

The Indian juggernaut keeps marching ahead. In a vital World Cup game imbued with history's quirks and hype's stifling embrace, the Men in Blue remained clinical while vanquishing Pakistan here on Saturday. A quiet confidence was evident right from the moment Rohit Sharma won the toss and opted to field.

In a cricketing era where no target seems insurmountable, it was a brave choice to prefer a breathless pursuit against the arch rival when scoreboard pressure in a full house could twist the narrative. It so happened that the sheer brilliance of the Indian bowlers in the middle overs overwhelmed Babar Azam's men and restricted them to 191 on a 300-plus deck.

In ODIs, the middle overs can drift and it is up to the captain to arrest this siesta mode. Rohit precisely did that, bringing back Mohammed Siraj, pressing Kuldeep Yadav into service and also unleashing Jasprit Bumrah. The way Babar and Mohammad Rizwan were batting until then, it looked as though the two had settled for a long meal at Lahore's Anarkali Bazaar.

The shot selection could have been better, but credit is due to the relentless Indian attack that triggered an eight for 36 collapse within the Pakistani ranks. The fact that five Indian bowlers picked two wickets apiece was a reflection of the existing synergy and it also helped Rohit use Shardul Thakur for a mere two overs. That barring a Shaheen Afridi-blistering-spell India was bound to win was evident at the innings break.

Special night

Once Rohit whipped Afridi's first ball for four, India was on course during a special night at the Narendra Modi Stadium. It was equally heartening to witness Shubman Gill's return to cricket following a dengue-induced break. He took a fine catch and when he batted, a cameo at that, his fours were the kind that would have made Ranjitsinhji sigh in heaven. The shots had panache and a distinct Indian touch.

Virat Kohli too was fluent and even if he and Gill fell on an identical score of 16, not much should be read into their soft dismissals. But the man of the moment was Rohit. Life truly has come a full circle for him. From being dropped from the 2011 World Cup squad to now lead India in the premier championship, and that too at home, is a remarkable turnaround. His 86 had the signature Rohit moments. The seemingly effortless sixes, those delicate cuts and vanilla-melting drives were all there.

Shreyas Iyer too chipped in with an unbeaten 53. Truly a commanding performance by India before it heads to Pune for the game against Bangladesh on Thursday. If there was a sour note, it remained beyond the ropes, especially in the stands that turned mute when Pakistani batters scored a four or the visiting bowlers claimed the odd wicket. Worse was the patronising advertisement propped up by a travel portal, which found its copy-cats from other travel-linked firms on X (previously Twitter). Fandom should not have any space for toxic juxtapositions. Let sport be!

Unfurling his range: The seemingly effortless sixes, delicate cuts and vanilla-melting drives were all there in Rohit's knock against Pakistan on Saturday. K.R. DEEPAK

Australia, Sri Lanka seek to reboot flagging campaign

Both teams come into the contest with concerns, the five-time winner has worries tackling spin, while Mendis and Samarawickrama would have to do the heavy lifting against a quality attack

ODI WORLD CUP

Dhruva Prasad
LUCKNOW

Australia, a pre-tournament favourite, and Sri Lanka, which often punches above its weight, will be desperate to open their World Cup 2023 account at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium here on Monday.

Both sides are coming off two successive defeats, one against South Africa each, and find themselves on the wrong side of history.

While Sri Lanka conceded the highest total against the Proteas in its opener, it saw Pakistan pull off the highest successful chase in the tournament's history in the following game. Australia, meanwhile, faced its heaviest World Cup defeat against South Africa in its previous match here and has kick-started a World Cup campaign with two losses for the first time since 1992.

The troubles don't seem to end for the Lankans as their skipper Dasun Shanaka has been ruled out indefinitely due to a right thigh muscle injury with Kusal Mendis, in red-hot form, taking over from him.

The Australians have witnessed their middle-order collapse against India and South Africa and are yet to breach the 200-run mark, while the Lankan bowlers are smarting a battering of over 770 runs in just under 100 overs across two games.

In the middle-overs with the ball, both teams have lacked penetration and allowed the opposition to wrest the initiative after being economical in the first PowerPlay.

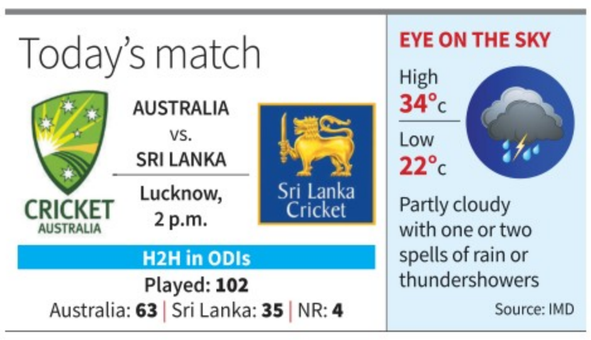
Crucial phase

With conditions likely to assist swing and seam movement while the ball is new, a lot will hinge on how the first 10 overs pan out.

Sri Lanka's batting, shepherded by Mendis and Sadeera Samarawickrama, has variety but will have its task cut out against the trio of Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins, who have shone in patches.

Australia, on the other hand, will quickly need to give role clarity to its pantheon of all-rounders, which is yet to deliver, and will bank on Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne to build on their starts and counter Sri Lanka's spin pack, led by Maheesh Theekshana.

First look: Karunaratne, who has replaced Shanaka, will be keen to impress in his first outing in this World Cup. SANDEEP SAXENA



IOC amends Olympic Charter to strengthen its human rights commitments

IOC SESSION

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Sunday amended the Olympic Charter to strengthen its human rights commitments during the the first day of its 141st Session here.

The IOC Session approved the inclusion of additional wordings relating to the respect of human rights after the executive board made a recommendation to this effect in September this year.

"Additional wording has been included in the Fundamental Principles of Olympism as an overarching commitment to the respect for human rights, specifically in Fundamental Principles of Olympism 1 and 4," the IOC said.

"The change is a result of the work by the Legal Affairs Commission and its consultation with the Advisory Committee on Human Rights," it added.

The new wordings in Fundamental Principles of Olympism 1 are 'internationally recognised human rights' and 'within the remit of the Olympic movement'.

In the Fundamental Principles of Olympism 4, 'internationally recognised human rights' and 'within the remit of the Olympic Movement' were the new wordings approved by the IOC Session.

"This is a major step in our commitment to the respect for human rights in the Olympic Movement," IOC President Thomas Bach said.

"With this change to the Olympic Charter, we are also sending a strong message to our stakeholders. It marks an important milestone in the IOC's human rights work." The IOC also aligned the Olympic Charter with the Guidelines on Athlete Expression, which were introduced by the IOC EB on April 21, 2021 and applied successfully at the Tokyo Olympic Games and then at the Beijing Winter Games.

The additional wording to Rule 40 makes it clear that all competitors, team officials and other team personnel at the Olympic Games shall enjoy freedom of expression, in keeping with the Olympic values and the Fundamental Principles of Olympism, and in accordance with the Guidelines determined by the IOC Executive Board.

In other decisions, the International Federation of American Football was granted full recognition by the IOC.

Russia's IOC members Yelena Isinbayeva and Sharmil Tarpishchev were among those absent at the session on Sunday.

IOC Director of Communications Mark Adams said both the members had excused themselves from attending the session.

It was also informed during the proceedings that Salt Lake City in the USA would prefer to host the 2034 Winter Olympics though it will also be available for the 2030 Games.

Opening salvo: International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach, centre, speaks on the first day of the 141st IOC session in Mumbai. AP

Every game now becomes almost like a final: Cummins

Dhruva Prasad
LUCKNOW

After facing its heaviest World Cup defeat on Thursday against South Africa, Australia captain Pat Cummins said the mood in the camp was fantastic and that the team was treating every game as a final, starting from Monday against Sri Lanka.

"Everyone after the last game was a little bit flat, but the last couple of days have been really good... The mood in the camp has been fantastic," he said on match eve. "Every game now becomes almost like a final. You've got to win just about all of them," he added.

Interestingly, the only two games the Aussies lost ahead of the semifinals at the World Cup in 2019 were against India and South Africa, the same two sides they have tasted defeat against in their first two games in 2023. "Looking back at 2019, India and South Africa were the two teams that we lost to in the round games there.

"I think in the last year, they're kind of the two teams that we've had the most trouble against.

"So, the opportunity now is we've got some teams we haven't played for a while that we've had a lot of success against," Cummins said.

The Australian skipper, who is win-less despite winning the toss on both occasions, said that assessing Indian conditions was difficult.

"ODI cricket, compared to T20 cricket, is played half in daylight and half at night... I find these wickets sometimes hard to read."

Prep time: Australia's Green at a practice session on the eve of the game against Sri Lanka. SANDEEP SAXENA

I have confidence in our batting, says Mendis

Press Trust of India
LUCKNOW

Skipper Kusal Mendis is confident Sri Lanka's batting unit can pull off a win against a woefully out-of-form Australia in the World Cup here on Monday.

Both Sri Lanka and Australia remain winless as they head into the group stage face-off. The Sri Lankan batting unit has done quite well in the previous two games, managing scores in excess of 320 against South Africa and Pakistan.

"I have a lot of confidence in our batting, I think we can do everything. I think we have a better batting unit – in form and bowling unit also," Mendis said on the eve of the game against Australia.

Mendis himself has been in imperious form. "I'm happy that I got runs in the first two games, I will continue the same way."

Bindra hopes India gets to host Olympics in near future

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

India's first individual Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra on Sunday expressed the hope that India will get to host the Olympic Games in the near future.

Speaking on the sidelines of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) 141st Session here, Bindra, the winner of the 2008 Beijing Olympics gold in 10m air rifle, said, "I hope we get to host the Olympic Games in the near future." Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Saturday asserted, while declaring the IOC Session open, that India will leave "no stone unturned" in its efforts to organise the 2036 Olympics.

Modi had also said that India wishes to host the 2029 Youth Olympics.

Speaking on the Olympic Value Education Program (OVEP) launched in Odisha last year, Bindra, while addressing the IOC Session on Sunday, said that more than 15,000 girls had taken up sports for the first time following the launch of the initiative in the state.

He said that following the launch of the OVEP, the students' attendance too had gone up by 12 per cent.

"Thanks to OVEP, students' attendance is up by 12 per cent, and over 15,000 girls have taken part in sport for the first time," said Bindra, who was India's only individual gold medallist until javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra entered the exclusive club by winning gold at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Bindra, who is also a member of the IOC's Athletes' Commission, added that the programme will also ensure participation of more boys and girls in mixed events.

"Mixed-gender games (mixed team events) are now common; they foster safe interactions between girls and boys and create an environment of learning and respect," Bindra said.

50% increase

"Physical activity has increased by 50% among OVEP participants, and seven million children across Odisha have participated in the recent 'Let's Move Campaign'," he added.

The IOC perceives OVEP as a major part of its Olympism365 initiative, which is about increasing access to sport and "bring the health and societal benefits of physical activity to communities".

Optimistic: Bindra speaks during the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) AFP

IOC members urge Bach to stay on as president

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Sunday urged the incumbent president Thomas Bach to stay on in his role after he completes his 12-year term in 2025.

Bach, a former fencing Olympian from Germany, is the ninth president of the IOC. He was elected to an eight-year term at the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires in 2013.

In March 2021, Bach was re-elected IOC president for another four years.

The Olympic Charter restricts a president's term to 12 years, a norm that was put in place by Bach's predecessor Jacques Rogge to avoid lengthy tenures.

Bach had succeeded Rogge, who had served as the IOC chief from 2001 to 2013.

On the inaugural day of the IOC's 141st Session here, most of its 99 members were of the opinion that Bach should stay on for a third term after his tenure ends in 2025, though it will require changes to be made to the Olympic Charter.

Head returns to the nets, may link-up with WC squad soon

X-factor: Travis Head could be the impetus that Australia seeks to revive its campaign. REUTERS

Press Trust of India
ADELAIDE

Australia's Travis Head returned to nets on Sunday having recovered from a fracture on his left-hand, and the middle-order batter is expected to travel to India on Thursday to join his country's World Cup squad.

Head had his protective splint removed from his hand on Friday. The South Australian had suffered a fracture on his hand after getting hit by South African pacer Gerald Coetzee at Centurion ahead of the World Cup.

> There's still a few hurdles we need to clear, and everything needs to fall into place

Although he might miss Australia's fixture against Pakistan on Friday in Bengaluru, Head could feature against the Netherlands on October 25, provided he passes the fitness test.

"It's coming along well, and probably better than we hoped. When we decided not to go with surgery, which would have meant a 10-week recovery, we were told it would be minimum six weeks with the splint before we could look at playing again," Head said.

"Going by that plan, the Netherlands game will be just under six weeks from impact, which is a pretty aggressive date, so everything would have to go perfectly from here to make that deadline," he added.

"I'm not sure what it will mean for fielding. We haven't explored that yet," said Head. "There's still a few hurdles we need to clear, and everything needs to fall into place from my end and from the team's point of view before the final decision is made."

INBRIEF

Bagnaia wins Indonesia MotoGP to reclaim the lead

Italy's Francesco Bagnaia won the Indonesia MotoGP at Pertamina Mandalika International Street Circuit on Sunday.Maverick Vinales (Aprilia) came in second ahead of Fabio Quartararo (Yamaha).

Tszyu defends his WBO super welterweight title

Undefeated Australian Tim Tszyu scored a unanimous points decision over American Brian Mendoza at Gold Coast (Australia) on Sunday to successfully defend his WBO super welterweight title for the first time. All three judges scored the bout in Tszyu's favour 116-111, 116-112 and 117-111.

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy gets underway today

The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy begins at various venues on Monday (Oct. 16).

The fixtures: Group A (Jaipur): Chhattisgarh vs. Mizoram; Baroda vs. Jammu & Kashmir; Hyderabad vs. Meghalaya; Haryana vs. Mumbai. **Group B (Mumbai):** Services vs. Sikkim; Bihar vs. Chandigarh; Assam vs. Odisha; Himachal Pradesh vs. Kerala. **Group C (Ranchi):** Arunachal Pradesh vs. Gujarat; Manipur vs. Railways; Andhra vs. Goa; Punjab vs. Saurashtra. **Group D (Mohali):** Uttarakhand vs. Vidarbha; Puducherry vs. Rajasthan; Bengal vs. Maharashtra. **Group E (Dehradun):** Karnataka vs. Tamil Nadu; Madya Pradesh vs. Nagaland; Delhi vs. Uttar Pradesh.

LIVE TELECAST

Men's Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.

Euro 2024: European Qualifiers, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.30 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday)

Double delight for Aditya, Chetan in MRF Formula class

Diana (MRF Saloon Car), Deepak (Indian Junior Touring Cars) and Diljith (Formula LGB 1300) also win twice in their categories; Angad wins championship in the MRF Saloon car (Toyota Etios)

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Bengaluru's Aditya Swaminathan and Chennai's Chetan Surineni notched a double each in the MRF Formula 2000 and F1600 categories, respectively, in the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI National car racing championships here on Sunday.

Chandigarh's Angad Matharoo provisionally clinched the championship in the MRF Saloon car (Toyota Etios) category with five wins from nine starts, besides two podium finishes this weekend.

Also scoring a double over the weekend were Pune's Diana Pundole in the MRF Saloon Car category, who became the first female driver to score a double in a single round in MMSC National four-wheeler racing championship, Deepak Ravikumar (Chennai, Performance Racing) in Indian Junior Touring Cars and T.S. Diljith (Thrissur, DTS Racing) in Formula LGB 1300.

Provisional results (eight laps, unless mentioned): MRF Formula 2000: Race-1: 1. Aditya Swaminathan (Bengaluru) 16: 02.814s, 2. Rohaan Madesh (Bengaluru) (16:03.313), 3. Chetan Korada (Chennai) (16:08.561). **Race-2 (10 laps):** 1. Aditya Swaminathan 16:13.886, 2. Arya Singh (Kolkata) 16:14.640, 3. Sandeep Kumar (Chennai) 16:15.805. **Race-3:** 1. Sandeep Kumar 13:08.364, 2. Arya Singh 13:08.781, 3. Rohaan Madesh 13:09.123. **MRF F1600: Race-1:** 1. Chetan Surineni (Bengaluru) 16:38.263, 2. Viswas Vijayaraj (Nellore) 16:39.456, 3. Aman Nagdev (Noida) (14:59.154 + 1 lap). **Race-2 (10 laps):** 1. Veer Sheth (Mumbai) 17:23.085, 2. Viswas Vijayaraj, 3. Aman Nagdev 17:28.489. **Race-3:** 1. Chetan Surineni 14:03.496, 2. Viswas Vijayaraj 14:04.198, 3. Veer Sheth 14:04.474. **Indian Touring Cars: Race-2 (10 laps):** 1. Biren Pithawalla (Mumbai, Team N1) 19:11.946, 2. Gurunath Meiyappan (Chennai, Race Concepts) 19:12.401, 3. Ritesh Rai (Chennai, Arka Motorsports) 19:16.193. **Indian Junior Touring Cars: Race-2 (10 laps):** 1. Deepak Ravikumar (Chennai, Performance Racing) 19:35.754, 2. Akkineni Anand Prasad (Chennai, Performance Racing) 19:36.864, 3. Srinivas Teja (Chennai, Performance Racing) 19:44.038. **Super Stock: Race-2 (10 laps):** 1. T.S. Diljith (Thrissur, DTS Racing) 20:56.057, 2. Manan Patel (Mumbai, Redline Racing) 19:11.463+1 lap, 3. Yokeshwaran K (Coimbatore, Momentum Motorsports) 19:38.091 + 1 lap. **Formula LGB 1300: Race-1:** 1. T.S. Dilijith 14:57.612, 2. Viswas Vijayaraj 15:03.336, 3. Deepak Ravikumar (Chennai, Ahura Racing) 15:05.403. **Race-2 (10 laps):** 1. Diljith 18:50.965, 2. Tijil Rao (Bengaluru, Momentum Motorsports) 19:00.080, 3. Raghul Rangasamy (Mahabalipuram, MSPORT) 19:00.681. **MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios) Race-1:** 1. Diana Pundole (Pune, Redline Racing) 16:31.113, 2. Angad Matharoo (Chandigarh, Redline Racing) 16:34.881, 3. Jai Prashanth Venkat (Coimbatore, Redline Racing) 16:35.729. **Race-2 (10 laps):** 1. Diana Pundole 20:49.229, 2. Angad Matharoo 20:50.273, 3. Jai Prashanth Venkat 20:54.606. **Race-3:** 1. Zahan Commissariat 16:49.499, 2. Jai Prashanth Venkat 16:51.898, 3. Kalim Iqbal (Colombo) 16:52.247.

Speeding around: Aditya driving to a win in Formula 2000. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Diana with her reward.

Railways emerges as the overall team champion

NATL. ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

D.P. Manu bettered his own mark to create a new men's javelin throw meet record at the 62nd National Open athletics championships at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Sunday.

Manu recorded an 82.06m effort in his first attempt to clinch the gold medal. His previous best at this meet came last year when he recorded an 81.23m throw.

Tamil Nadu and Railways created meet records in the men's and women's 4x100m relay events respectively. Railways emerged as the overall team champion.

The results: Winners:

Men: 20,000m race walk: Bilin George (Ker), 1:25:02.50s. **400m:** K. Avinash (ONGC), 46.05s. **1,500m:** Abhishek Thakur (SSCB), 3:42.21s. **4x100m relay:** Tamil Nadu, 39.42s (NMR, **OMR:** Railways, 39.75s, 2022). **Javelin:** D.P. Manu (SSCB), 82.06m (NMR, **OMR:** D.P. Manu, 81.23m, 2022) **Women: 20,000m race walk:** Munita Prajapati (Rly), 1:38:21.68s. **400m:** Dandi Sri (AP), 53.26s. **1,500m:** Pooja (Rly), 4:21.80s. **4x100m:** Railways, 44.87s (NMR, **OMR:** Railways, 44.98s, 2022). **Best athletes: Men:** D.P. Manu (SSCB). **Women:** Yamuna Ladkat (Mah). **Team champions: Overall:** Railways. **Men:** Services Sports Control Board (SSCB). **Women:** Railways.

Yamuna...best woman athlete. K. MURALI KUMAR

Upgrading himself: Manu bettered his own mark in the men's javelin. K. MURALI KUMAR

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1	South-West-1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/2355/2023-24 Date: 11.10.2023 (Reserved for SC Category)	1	Rs.17,94,269/- Rs. 22,500/-	07.11.2023 upto 04:00 pm	09.11.2023 after 03:00 pm
		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/2355/2023-24 Date: 11.10.2023	2	Rs.47,84,985/- Rs. 95,700/-		
		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/2355/2023-24 Date: 11.10.2023 (Reserved for SC Category)	3	Rs.18,56,394/- Rs. 23,300/-		
		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/2355/2023-24 Date: 11.10.2023	4	Rs.52,46,028/- Rs. 1,05,000/-		
			5	Rs.34,12,080/- Rs. 68,300/-		

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The details regarding participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients are desirous of utilizing the Transferable Development Rights **("TDR")** issued by the Bangalore Development Authority by way of a Development Right Certificate **("DRC")** dated 20.09.2019 in Folio No. BDA/TDR Cell/TDR/022/2019-20 to an extent of FAR credit of built up area in all measuring 124.51 square meters **("Schedule B Property")** arising from 411.60 square meter (out of immovable property in Survey No. 33/4 measuring 27 guntas situated at Kothanur Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk **("Schedule A Property")** surrendered to Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike **("BBMP")**, in the name of Hiren Wahen Buildtech and Hiren Wahen Buildtech Private Limited **("Owner")**.

Any person having any right, title, claim or interest either in the Schedule Property or any part thereof or on the TDR issued by the BDA or against the Owner must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof ***within seven (7) days*** of this publication. In case no such claim along with documentary proof is received by us within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, it shall be presumed that the title of the Owner with respect to the Schedule Property and the TDR is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Claims or alleged interest, if any, which are not received within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be deemed to have been waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall not be binding on the Owner.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of land measuring 4.04 guntas (411.60 square meters) forming a part of Survey No. 33/4 measuring 27 guntas situated at Kothanur Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, along with the building area measuring 13.31 square meters, surrendered/relinquished to and in favour of the BBMP and bounded on the:

East by: Hennur Kothanuru Baglur main Road,
West by: Remaining land in Survey No. 33/4,
North by : Remaining land in Survey No. 33/4
South by: Property in Survey No. 33/3

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

Transferable Development Rights measuring 124.51 square meters contained in the Development Right Certificate dated 20.09.2019 in Folio No. BDA/TDR Cell/ TDR 022/2019-20 issued by the Commissioner, Bangalore Development Authority arising out of the Development Rights Certificate dated 21.05.2018 in Folio No. BDA/ TDR Cell/ DRC/ 010/ 2017-18 and as evidenced by the Utilization Certificate dated 01.10.2019 in No. BDA/TDR Cell/UC/071/2019-20.

Malini Raju,
AZB and Partners
Advocates and Solicitors,
7th Floor, Infantry Road, Bengaluru-560001.
Place: Bengaluru Date: 14.10.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are investigating the title and the development rights of Hiren Wahen Buildtech (a partnership firm) having its registered office at No. 1158, Survey Nos. 86/4 and 86/6, High Cliff, Panathur Main Road, Munireddy Layout, Kadubesanahalli, Bangalore 560103, **("Owner")** with L. Prakash and Hiren Wahen Buildtech Private Limited as the partners of the firm, with respect to land bearing new Katha No. 1158 (carved out of the Survey No. 86/4 and 86/6) measuring 1 acre 16 guntas situated at Panathur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, morefully described in the Schedule A hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the **"Schedule Property".** The Owner has developed a project known as "High Cliff" **("Project")** on the Schedule Property.

Any person having any right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property including the units forming part of the Project (as detailed in Schedule B hereunder) must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof ***within seven (7) days*** of this publication. In case no such notice is received by us within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, it shall be presumed that the title of the Owner with respect to the Schedule Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Claims or alleged interest, if any, which are not received within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be deemed to have been waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE-A
(Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of converted lands measuring 1 acre 16 guntas bearing new Katha No. 1158 (carved out of the Survey No. 86/4 and 86/6) situated at Panathur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and bounded on the:

East by: Remaining portion of Survey No. 86/4 and Survey No. 83/1
West by: Survey Nos. 56/1, 2 and 3
North by : Survey No. 87 and 88
South by: Panathur Main Road.

SCHEDULE-B
List of Units in the Project (Flat Numbers).

A1-201, A2-202, A1-301, A2-302, A1-401, A2-402, A1-501, A2-502, A1-601, A2-602, A1-701, A2-702, A1-801, A2-802, B1-101, B2-102, B3-103, B4-104, B5-105, B1-201, B2-202, B3-203, B4-204, B5-205, B1-301, B2-302, B3-303, B4-304, B5-305, B1-401, B2-402, B3-403, B4-404, B5-405, B1-501, B2-502, B3-503, B4-504, B5-505, B1-601, B2-602, B3-603, B4-604, B5-605, B1-701, B2-702, B3-703, B4-704, B5-705, B1-801, B2-802, B3-803, B4-804, B5-805, C1-101, C2-102, C3-103, C4-104, C1-201, C2-202, C3-203, C4-204, C1-301, C2-302, C3-303, C4-304, C1-401, C2-402, C3-403, C4-404, C1-501, C2-502, C3-503, C4-504, C1-601, C2-602, C3-603, C4-604, C1-701, C2-702, C3-703, C4-704,C1-801, C2-802, C3-803, C4-804.

Malini Raju,
AZB and Partners
Advocates and Solicitors,
7th Floor, Infantry Road, Bengaluru-560001.
Place: Bengaluru Date: 14.10.2023

IN BRIEF

Balaji-Begemann pair clinches trophy in Slovakia

Sriram Balaji and Andre Begemann of Germany won the doubles title at the €145,000 Challenger in Bratislava. It was the first title of the season and the 53rd doubles title of the 33-year-old Balaji's career. Seventh seeds Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos beat fourth seeds Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden 5-7, 6-2, [10-7] in the final of the $8,800,000 ATP Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai, China, on Sunday. The champion team collected 1000 ATP points and $436,730. The runner-up pocketed 600 points and $231,660. Fourth-seeded Zeel Desai beat top seed Hina Inoue of the USA 6-2, 6-4 to clinch the title in the $15,000 ITF women's event in Monastir, Tunisia. It was the third singles title of her professional career for the 24-year-old Zeel.

Italy coasts to an easy win over Malta

The Azzurri post 4-0 victory after their preparations were interrupted midweek when police questioned

EURO QUALIFIERS

Associated Press
LONDON

Italy put a scandal-ridden week behind it to beat Malta 4-0 in its European Championship qualifier. Giacomo Bonaventura set Italy on its way with his first goal for the Azzurri, and Domenico Berardi ended his goal drought in style by scoring in each half. Substitute Davide Frattesi netted in stoppage time to continue his form.

Special: Bonaventura became the oldest Italy player (34 years and 53 days) to score his first goal for the national team. REUTERS

The results: Group C: Ukraine 2 (Sudakov 30, Karavaiev 90+5) bt North Macedonia 0; Italy 4 (Bonaventura 23, Berardi 45+1 & 64, Frattesi 90+3) Malta 0.

G: Bulgaria 0 lost to Lithuania 2 (Sirvys 45 & 55); Hungary 2 (Varga 20, Sallai 34) bt Serbia 1 (Pavlovic 33).

H: Northern Ireland 3 (Smyth 5, Magennis 11, McMenamin 81) bt San Marino 0.

Slovenia 3 (Sesko 16-pen & 28, Janza 90+2) bt Finland 0. Denmark 3 (Wind 36, Skov 45+1 & 48) bt Kazakhstan 1 (Vorogovskiy 58).

Kingston for Telangana Race Horse Owners Association Trophy

HYDERABAD: Trainer K. Satheesh's ward Kingston, who ran third in his last start, should make amends in the Telangana Race Horse Owners Association Trophy, the main event of Monday's (Oct. 16) races.

1 SHALIMAR PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1.30 p.m.: 1. Gretsy (3) A. Imran Khan 60, 2. Reigning Beauty (5) Afroz Khan 56, 3. City Cruise (1) Md. Ekram Alam 53, 4. Worcester (4) Akshay Kumar 52, 5. Power Ranger (2) Surya Prakash 51.5, 6. The Akhanda (8) Santosh Raj 51.5, 7. Hero Of The East (7) Abhay Singh 51 and 8. Princess Daka (6) Ajay Kumar 51.
1. GRETSY, 2. REIGNING BEAUTY, 3. WORCESTER

2 LOYAL MANZAR PLATE (1,600m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.05: 1. Starwalt (4) Mohit Singh 60, 2. Aerial Combat (5) Akshay Kumar 59.5, 3. Grand Duke (1) Md. Ekram Alam 59.5, 4. Capital Gain (3) A.M. Tograllu 59, 5. Advance Guard (7) Kuldeep Sngh (Jr) 57.5, 6. Cash Register (2) Surya Prakash 53.5 and 7. Sucker Punch (6) Vivek G 52.
1. AERIAL COMBAT, 2. GRAND DUKE, 3. STARWALT

3 NIZAMABAD PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.40: 1. Colt Pistol (7) Vivek G 60, 2. Maverick (1) A. Imran Khan 59.5, 3. Mr. Perfect (4) Mohit Singh 59.5, 4. Tripurari (5) Surya Prakash 59.5, 5. Cosmico (8) Md. Ismail 57, 6. Pontefract (9) Md. Ekram Alam 57, 7. Lights On (3) R.S. Jodha 54.5, 8. Proud Girl (2) Afroz Khan 51 and 9. Duck Hawk (6) Abhay Singh 50.5.
1. MAVERICK, 2. COLT PISTOL, 3. TRIPURARI

4 NOBLE QUEST PLATE (1,400m) Maiden, 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45, 3.15: 1. Deccan Spirit (2) A. Imran Khan 60, 2. Final Judgement (1) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 59, 3. Brooklyn Beauty (6) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 58.5, 4. Soorya (8) Mohit Singh 58.5, 5. Toffee (3) Akshay Kumar 58, 6. Indian Warrior (5) Shivansh 57.5, 7. Silver Arrow (4) Abhay Singh 57, 8. Nav Lakhaa (7) Vivek G 56.5 and 9. The Platinum Queen (9) Surya Prakash 56.
1. DECCAN SPIRIT, 2. TOFFEE, 3. FINAL JUDGEMENT

5 SADDLE UP PLATE (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 3.50: 1. Black Opal (4) A.A. Vikrant 60, 2. My Master (8) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Sound Echo (1) Vivek G 60, 4. Creative Art (2) Santosh Raj 58, 5. Blue Brigade (6) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 56, 6. Protocol (5) Md. Ismail 55, 7. It's My Life (3) Ajay Kumar 54 and 8. Ar Superior (7) Abhay Singh 52.
1. IT'S MY LIFE, 2. SOUND ECHO, 3. MY MASTER

6 TELANGANA RACE HORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION TROPHY (1,200m), rated 80 and above (Cat. I), 4.25: 1. Soloist (5) A. Imran Khan 62, 2. Watch My Stride (9) Shivansh 62, 3. Kingston (10) R.S. Jodha 60.5, 4. Unsung Hero (12) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 56, 5. Beauty Blaze (7) Akshay Kumar 55.5, 6. Amyra (8) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 54.5, 7. City Of Bliss (4) Ajay Kumar 54.5, 8. Blissful (2) Md. Ekram Alam 53.5, 9. Carlisle (3) Mohit Singh 52.5, 10. Avancia (6) Vivek G 50.5, 11. Bangor On Dee (11) Afroz Khan 50 and 12. Red Snaper (1) Surya Prakash 50.
1. KINGSTON, 2. BEAUTY BLAZE, 3. AVANCIA

7 GOODWOOD PLATE (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 5.00: 1. Miss Marvellous (2) A. Imran Khan 60, 2. Wallop And Gallop (12) Vivek G 59.5, 3. Just Incredible (5) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 59, 4. The Inheritor (3) A.M. Tograllu 58.5, 5. Angelita (1) Ajay Kumar 58, 6. Best Buddy (9) Akshay Kumar 58, 7. Despang (11) Surya Prakash 57.5, 8. Laurus (8) Santosh Raj 57.5, 9. Its On (7) Abhay Singh 54, 10. Sun Dancer (4) Afroz Khan 52.5, 11. Ice Berry (6) Md. Ekram Alam 52 and 12. D Yes Boss (10) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 51.
1. BEST BUDDY, 2. DESPANG, 3. ICE BERRY

Day's Best: **MAVERICK**
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4; (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7.
Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 5, 6 & 7.
Tanala: All races.

SNAPSHOTS

Almaz and Ebenyo claim Delhi Half Marathon titles

NEW DELHI: Ethiopian Rio Olympics champion Almaz Ayana reclaimed the title she won six years ago, completing the 18th Delhi Half Marathon on Sunday in 1:07:58 while Kenya's Daniel Ebenyo ran under 60 minutes to take the top spot in 59 minutes 27 seconds.

Important results:

International: Men: Daniel Ebenyo (Ken, 59:27), Chales Matata (Ken, 1:00:05), Addisu Gobena (Eth, 1:0051); **Women:** Almaz Ayana (Eth, 1:07:58), Stella Chesang (Uga, 1:08:28), Viola Chepngeno (Ken, 1:09:09).

Indian: Men: Abhishek Pal (1:04:07), Kartik Kumar (1:04:08), Sawan Barwal (1:04:17).

Women: Kavita Yadav (1:177:42), Rima Patel (1:17:48), Poonam Sonune (1:17:49).

Kerala keeps winning in Santosh Trophy

BENAULIM (GOA): Former champion Kerala blanked Chhatisgarh 3-0 for its third successive win in Group-A in the 77th Santosh Trophy National football championship in Benaulim (Goa) on Sunday. The victory helped Kerala retain its lead in the five-team group with nine points from three matches.

The results (league):

Group A: Kerala 3 (E. Sajeesh 7, Junain Kadvalath 55, Nijo Gilbert 69) bt Chhattisgarh 0; Goa 2 (Clencio Pinto 16, Selwyn Frazier Miranda 78) bt J&K 1 (Adnan Ayub 45+1).

Group C: Tamil Nadu 8 (Syed Suhail Pasha 2 & 51; M. Umasankar 16, N. Solaimalai 29, Vineeth Kumar Velmurugan 46, A. Regan 72 & 90+3; P. Kamalesh 82) bt Jharkhand 1 (Rohit Tigga 74).

Manipur 5 (Phijam Sanathoi Meetei 19 & 52; W. Sadananda Singh 44, Samson 57, Ngangbam Pacha Singh 74) bt Madhya Pradesh 0; UP 2 (Pankaj Kumar Gupta 14, Sanyem Konyak 76-OG) bt Nagaland 1 (Haileuyibe Iranggau 15).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Shreya and Tejashwini do the star turn against Goa

Shreya S. Chavan (108) and B.G. Tejashwini (5/7) starred for Karnataka as it thrashed Goa by 243 runs in the BCCI U-19 women's one day trophy in Guwahati on Sunday.

The scores:
Karnataka 311/4 in 47 overs (Shreya S. Chavan 108, Lavanya Chalana 51, Mithila Vinod 80 n.o.) bt Goa 68 in 33.4 overs (Srinithi P. Rai 3/11, B.G. Tejashwini 5/7).

Hardik stars in Karnataka's big win

Hardik Raj's five-wicket haul (5/20) helped Karnataka defeat Gujarat by 140 runs in the Vinoo Mankad U-19 Trophy in Hyderabad on Sunday.

Hardik (Karnataka, 5/20).

Tejashwini (Karnataka, 5/7).

The scores: Karnataka 251 in 47.2 overs (S.U. Karthik 33, Harshil Dharmani 72, Dheeraj J. Gowda 51, Yuvraj Arora 31) bt Gujarat 111 in 25.3 overs (Ronit Patel 53, Hardik Raj 5/20).

Shreya (Karnataka, 108).

Narrow win for Aristocrat

Aristocrat pipped Blue Star 7-6 in the KSHA Super 10 five-a-side hockey tournament here on Sunday.

Other results:

Ashco bt Rising Star 5-3; Blue Star bt Ashco 7-6; Rising Star bt Aristocrat 4-3; Ashco bt Aristocrat 4-2; Rising Star bt Blue Star 5-4.

Amay delivers for BFC

Amay Morajkar scored twice as BFC defeated FC Agniputra 2-0 in the BDFA Super Division football league here on Sunday.

The results:

BFC 2 (Amay Morajkar 2, 48) bt FC Agniputra 0; Sporting Club Bengaluru 1 (Ahmed Faiz Khan 7) bt FC Bengaluru United 0.

THE HINDU

EDUCATIONPLUS

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Viney Kirpal

Evaluate yourself

Self-evaluation comes from an internal motivation to grow and requires awareness of one's strengths and weaknesses and identifying the steps needed to reach the next level.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

American psychologist Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs speaks of self-actualisation as the ultimate level of motivation. He identified five needs: physiological (food, clothing), safety (job security), love and belonging needs (friendship, socialisation), self-esteem, and self-actualisation. You compete with yourself to reach perfection at the stage of self-actualisation. It is the final stage of one's growth. In self-actualisation, you grow by identifying your own milestones and achieving them one by one. No one needs to tell you what to do and how to do it. You assess your own progress and plan your professional development as you strive for various accomplishments. Neeraj Chopra and P.V. Sindhu are individuals who have dedicated themselves to self-evaluation for the sake of self-actualisation. They evaluate their performance, identify weaknesses, get trained by coaches, and move to the next tournament.

Motivation to grow

Self-evaluation comes from an internal motivation to grow from point A to point B to point C and reach heights beyond one's current capacity. It requires ongoing introspection and evaluation of one's academic/ professional strengths and weaknesses. It requires recognising one's own achievements and failings at any level and identifying the steps needed to reach the next level. Self-evaluation is best done by writing strengths and failings as in a balance sheet.

For example, Neeraj Chopra might write: "I could clear X metres with the javelin throw, but I want to clear X + 1 metre to win in the next tournament. For that, I need to put in five hours to learn additional skills and strategies. I also need to develop greater stamina by taking the following steps."

Can students evaluate themselves? Yes, they can. The method they can use is to write their self- assessment like this:

i. I used to solve Maths problems correctly, but now I wish to solve Physics and Maths problems correctly.

ii. Three things I have learnt in the last four months are to draw up a study schedule to revise the basics and work on exercises regularly.

iii. A method that has helped me learn better is associating a picture with every concept.

iv. My strategy to remember my points in the exam is to make an acronym of the first letter of all the concepts and memorise it.

Advantages

Self-evaluation has many benefits. It is important to develop the art early for further actualisation. For instance, it helps you review your performance objectively without blaming others for your failings. It enables you to learn independently and think critically about your present levels of performance. With self-evaluation, you can evaluate your progress, skills, and development and monitor improvement. It can help you identify gaps in your knowledge, skills and mental make-up, and work towards refining them for perfection.

Consider the case of Hanif, who attended lectures and studied regularly. He was confident that he would get a first-class in his graduation. He was studying Psychology among other subjects and had mastered the subject to the point he could answer the entire question paper if asked to. Yet, he missed his first-class by seven marks because of a foolish mistake made during his exam. He analysed why he had scored lowest in Psychology. He found that, to show off his knowledge, he had answered a question wrongly, even though he knew the right answer. Five minutes to closing time, he felt he had made a mistake but suppressed the thought and completed the paper. Had he cancelled the wrong answer and written the main points with a diagram and examples, he would have easily cleared the subject.

Upon evaluating his performance and personality, he realised he had a tendency to act impulsively, rush into decisions, and forget to double-check his work before turning it in. In order to improve his performance, he promised himself to practise patience, select questions carefully, and provide accurate responses. He worked on himself and attained his goal of getting a first-class in his Master's. Hanif kept competing with himself to improve his performance. In the years that followed, he became a famous researcher in Psychology.

The writer is former Professor of English, IIT Bombay.
ceogiit@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIPS

Infocepts Innovate for Impact Scholarship
Aims to support needy students
Eligibility: Open to students domiciled in Nagpur, Pune, Chennai, or Bengaluru and pursuing Computer Engineering, Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Data Science and Analytics courses and have secured at least 60% marks in their Class 10 and 12 exam. Annual family income should not exceed ₹6 lakhs.
Rewards: Up to ₹50,000 a year for three years
Application: Online
Deadline: October 22
www.b4s.in/edge/INFO1

Tata Capital Pankh Scholarship Programme
An initiative of Tata Capital Ltd to help students belonging to economically weaker sections of society.
Eligibility: Students in Classes 11/ 12, or in graduation, diploma and polytechnic courses at recognised institutions who have scored at least 60% marks in the preceding class. Annual family income must be less than or equal to ₹2.5 lakhs
Rewards: Up to 80% of tuition fees or between ₹ 10,000 and ₹ 12,000 (whichever is less)
Application: Online
Deadline: November 15
www.b4s.in/edge/TCPS23

INSPIRE Scholarship For Higher Education
An initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, to help meritorious students who wish to pursue courses in Science.
Eligibility: Applicants who are not more than 22 years on the date of application; were in the top 1% of their class in the Class 12 exam or secured a rank within the top 10,000 in the JEE (Main) or NEET exam and have secured admission in a recognised college or university in India to pursue a full-time UG or PG degree in a Science or Technology discipline.
Rewards: ₹5,000 per month and mentorship grant of ₹20,000 per annum
Application: Online
Deadline: November 9
www.b4s.in/edge/INSP1

Courtesy: buddy4study.com